

## Water could lead to war — Egyptian

ATLANTA (R) — Disputes between countries over scarce fresh water supplies could be the cause of new Middle East fighting, an Egyptian delegate to a conference on water resources said. Mr. Samir Ahmad said bickering over water among Israel, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq could lead to new tensions, if not armed conflict. The Egyptian delegate, a former ambassador to Italy, was among officials from more than a dozen countries attending a U.S. government-backed "World Water Summit." "Israel is badly in need of more water. So is Syria. So is Jordan. So is Lebanon. What are they going to do about it? There are going to be water-induced disputes — tension at least, if not war," Mr. Ahmad told Reuters. Unlike in other regions where water problems are mainly scientific or engineering matters, he said Middle East water problems are almost entirely political. "Obviously the ideal solution is a Middle East water authority like (America's) Tennessee Valley Authority, with a master plan to justly and fairly divide up water and find new resources," he said. In addition to water problems involving Israel and the Arabs, there were continuing problems with water supply on the Euphrates River, Mr. Ahmad said, where Turkey "has a huge programme of building dams."

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## Jordan to get \$53.6 million loan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Loans worth \$53.6 million were announced Friday by the World Bank to help Jordan cope with as many as 400,000 citizens expected to return because of the Gulf war. Jordan's total population was estimated last year at little more than three million. Last month the International Labour Office estimated that 250,000 Jordanians had already returned, largely from Kuwait. More than 500,000 Jordanians lived and worked in Kuwait before Iraq invaded the country last August. Many had been born there but remained Jordanian citizens. The bank wants quick, substantial emergency help for Jordan. "The costs of the crisis for 1990-91 are estimated at over \$5 billion, its announcement said. Jordan has suffered badly because its workers in Kuwait could no longer send home their earnings, and because of a drop in exports and in tourism. Switzerland is expected to supply \$25 million in loans in a co-financing arrangement. The World Bank, biggest source of aid to the Third World, will itself provide \$10 million for schools, health care, water supply, transport and the placing of the refugees in Jordan's strained economy.

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## Ramadan named vice president

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — President Saddam Hussein Friday took the first step in reorganising his top-level leadership by appointing Taha Yassin Ramadan to the post of vice president. Mr. Ramadan, a member of the Revolutionary Command Council, so far held the post of deputy prime minister. The name of another deputy prime minister, Mr. Saadoun Hammadi, has been lately floating in political circles in Amman as the next Iraqi prime minister, a post so far held by the president, Mr. Saddam Hussein.

## Air crash victims buried in Saudi desert

RIYADH (R) — Ninety-one Gulf war soldiers from Senegal who died in a plane crash Thursday were buried in the Saudi desert Friday, a Saudi official said. The simple funeral at Nairah near the Kuwaiti border was attended by Saudi Lieutenant-General Khalid Ben Sultan, commander of the joint Arab forces, and by Senegalese Armed Forces Minister Medoune Fall. The soldiers died with six Saudi airmen in a Saudi air force C-130 Hercules transport which crashed as it tried to land at Ras Al Mushab airport a few kilometres from the burial site. The plane was returning the Senegalese from a pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina, which they had asked to make before they were repatriated.

## American shot dead in Turkey

ISTANBUL (AP) — Assaults Friday killed a former U.S. air force officer working for an American firm in Turkey, police reported. The Marxist organisation Dev Sol claimed responsibility. It was the third time in two months the group said it was behind armed attacks on Americans. In the other assaults, a U.S. military employee was killed and a U.S. air force officer was wounded. Dev Sol (Revolutionary Left) has said it attacked to protest the Gulf war and "Western imperialism."

## Ethiopian flow to Israel resumed

LOD, Israel (AP) — The first plane load of Ethiopian Jews to arrive in three weeks landed here Friday, immigration officials said. A halt in flights from Ethiopia early this month raised concern that there could be problems in bringing the 17,000 Jews remaining in the African nation. Jewish Agency spokesman Gad Ben-Ari blamed the suspension on "technical difficulties" in the visa application process. The 230 new immigrants, some dressed in traditional white embroidered robes, were greeted by officials of the Jewish Agency, a quasi-government organisation that assists in resettling immigrants. Six hundred more Ethiopian Jews are expected to arrive in Israel by the end of next week.

## Germany lifts sanctions on Kuwait

BONN (R) — The German government said Friday it had ended economic sanctions against Kuwait because Iraqi forces had left the emirate. A brief item in the government's official bulletin said the sanctions had been lifted because U.S. resolutions had been fulfilled. German sanctions against Iraq remain in force, the government bulletin said.

## Ozal heads for talks with Bush

ANKARA (R) — Turkish President Turgut Ozal left for the United States Friday for talks with President George Bush over the aftermath of the Gulf war. "We will discuss with President Bush all facets of U.S.-Turkish relations, post-war conditions in the region and other international issues directly related to Turkey," Mr. Ozal told reporters at the airport. "Since the start of the Gulf crisis we have talked to President Bush by telephone and made assessments. Now we have a chance to... exchange views on steps for peace and post-war conditions," Anatolian news agency quoted him as saying.

# U.N. to lift ban on food for Iraq

## U.N. envoy warns of epidemics and catastrophe

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The Security Council's Sanctions Committee has agreed to lift the ban on food shipments to Iraq and is debating conditions for allowing other necessities to reach the shattered country, diplomats said Friday.

A final public decision by the Sanctions Committee was expected later Friday, but a French representative emerged from the private meeting to say the committee had agreed to "open the tap" for food shipments, and a British diplomat said that "in practice, it is the lifting of sanctions on food."

They both spoke on condition

of anonymity. All other delegates and officials attending the committee agreed with their assessment.

The Sanctions Committee began discussing the issue in the morning and was still in private session by late afternoon.

The Security Council Committee monitors sanctions imposed after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait which endured despite the end of the Gulf war.

Diplomats said the committee would allow food into Iraq in unrestricted quantities as long as the donor notified the committee and the aid was distributed under international supervision.

Iraq has agreed to U.N. distribution of food even though it would be sent to Kurd-controlled areas of the north and the provinces of the south where Shiite Muslims are rebelling against the government.

Fuel to run generators for refrigerators, spare parts for sewage system repair, and other essentials for health and welfare will probably be allowed in on a case-by-case basis, diplomats said.

The committee questioned Undersecretary-General Martti Ahtisaari on his report urging them to lift the food embargo on Iraq. Mr. Ahtisaari said the coun-

try was reduced to a "pre-industrial age" by allied bombing and risks catastrophic disease and famine.

The committee can effectively lift the embargo on food by declaring that a humanitarian emergency exists.

Iraq has no foreign exchange to buy food and the U.N. embargo would still ban financial transactions with Baghdad. But Western diplomats said that food Iraq had bought before its Aug. 2 invasion and the imposition of the boycott could be released once the Sanctions Committee makes its decision.

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# U.S. forces shoot down Iraqi plane near Kirkuk

Combined agency dispatches

U.S. FIGHTER planes shot down an Iraqi military jet Friday — the second in two days — after it was spotted flying over the rebel-held city of Kirkuk in northern Iraq, the U.S. central command in Riyadh said.

Two U.S. F-15 fighters intercepted the Iraqi SU-22 Fitter at 11.40 a.m. (0840 GMT) flying with another Iraqi aircraft, a propeller driven single-engine trainer, a U.S. military statement said.

They visually identified the two aircraft and downed the Fitter with an AIM-9 missile, the statement said.

Preliminary reports indicated the pilot of the PC-7 trainer ejected after the Fitter was shot

down.

U.S. troops occupying 15 per cent of southern Iraq are still in defensive positions and U.S. warplanes are patrolling the skies.

President George Bush said Wednesday that any more Iraqi planes which violated the temporary ceasefire in the Gulf would also be shot down.

The U.S. Defence Department has also warned Iraqi military forces against using helicopters to put down rebellions by Kurdish groups in northern Iraq and Shiite Muslims in the south that broke out after the Gulf war ended late last month.

Defence Department spokesman Pete Williams said Thursday that Iraqi forces were using dozens of helicopters to strafe anti-government insurgents.

The downing of the plane came as the head of the Kurdish opposition coalition urged other opposition leaders Friday to join him inside northern Iraq to discuss formation of a provisional government.

Fierce fighting was reported by rebel sources Friday near Moqul and Khanaqin in the north and against Iraqi forces around the Shiite holy city of Najaf and Amara province in the south.

Masoud Barzani, the leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the head of the Iraqi Kurdistan Front opposition coalition, claimed insurgents now control 95 per cent of the northern provinces.

"It is imperative that now that

(Continued on page 5)

## Iraqis agree to release Kuwaitis

RIYADH (Agencies) — Iraq took another step towards meeting U.S. and allied terms for a permanent Gulf war ceasefire by agreeing to hand over more than 5,000 Kuwaiti captives, a senior Kuwaiti military source said Friday.

The pledge to free all of the Kuwaitis Baghdad has reported holding was made in talks between Iraqi and allied military officials in the Saudi Arabian capital Riyadh, Kuwaiti Colonel Abdullah Kandari said.

Col. Kandari said the Iraqis agreed to release a total of 5,040 Kuwaiti detainees over the next five days under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

He said a group of 1,150 Kuwaitis was being flown home on Friday on eight separate

Kuwait Airways flights from the northwestern Saudi town of Arar.

A second batch of 1,157 Kuwaitis would be transferred on Saturday, a third of 907 on Sunday, a fourth of 1,147 on Monday and a fifth of 679 on Tuesday.

The release of the civilian and military prisoners, many of whom were rounded up in the last days of the six-week Gulf war, goes a long way towards fulfilling a major condition for a permanent ceasefire.

U.S. President George Bush ordered a halt to offensive military operations on Feb. 28 but said a formal ceasefire depended on a string of conditions including the speedy release of all prisoners, including the captured Kuwaitis.

The first batch of 145 Kuwaiti soldiers landed at Kuwait international airport shortly before 10

a.m. (0700 GMT). A second flight arrived about an hour later.

From the airport, the freed soldiers were taken in packed buses to a wedding hall in the SURRA section of Kuwait City.

Hundreds of expectant relatives massed in front of the hall, hoping for a chance to be reunited with loved ones. Many were disappointed.

The Kuwaiti government did not release names of the prisoners so many relatives of missing Kuwaitis came to the centre with hope as their only companion.

No government officials were present at the hall. A small government delegation, led by Brigadier General Jasim Al Sbihi, one of the three Kuwaiti commanders who fled Kuwait on

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# Three weeks after the ceasefire, Iraqis remain uncertain of future, recent past

This is the second in a series of articles by Jordan Times Staff Reporter Lami K. Andoni, who has just returned from Iraq:

THREE WEEKS after the ceasefire, residents of Baghdad remain in a state of shock and uncertainty about the future of their devastated country. But there had been no signs that the capital was taking part in the rebellion which has swept the north and the south of the country.

Except for few separate incidents — mainly in predominantly Shiite neighbourhoods — anger in Baghdad has not shown in violent anti-government protests, but that is only partly due to the army's strong grip on the capital. The silent anger of Baghdadis largely reflects — judging by interviews with residents — a state of perplexity and confusion with what the country has been plunged into since the end of

the war.

"The country has lost its balance. Some Iraqis feel that they can barely think," said a university professor.

But Baghdad, which has been known historically for leading anti-government revolts, has not moved also because many people do not see, so far, a viable alternative to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Immediately after the abrupt withdrawal from Kuwait, tension in Baghdad appeared to simmer. For despite the initial manifestations of celebrations — like shooting in the air — Baghdadis did not conceal their frustration at what they viewed as a humiliating pullout of the troops from Kuwait.

"He (President Saddam)

should not have ordered a withdrawal now. This looks like a defeat. It is very humiliating," said a young Iraqi street vendor in the souk, a few hours after the pullout order.

In some neighbourhoods some portraits of President Saddam were tarnished with red paint and eggs.

Aware of a potential threat of armed unrest, the government had promptly started collecting hundreds of thousands of arms, mostly machine guns, which were distributed to the population during the war. In some areas the army had to conduct house-to-house searches for arms, while eyewitnesses said that calls on the people to turn over their arms were heard from loudspeakers in some neighbourhoods.

Security blocs were set up to look for arms and stolen vehicles. The government seemed

in control. As days went by, fewer blocs were seen around Baghdad and fewer cars were stopped at checkpoints.

One night last week, this reporter went around the city with an Iraqi driver, and saw three checkpoints only during a one-hour tour.

Some people, it appeared, had managed to keep their personal weapons, and at night we would hear intermittent shooting which never turned into skirmishes. But not all of the shooting was by dissidents, or army deserters, who refused to let go of their weapons.

Sometimes, the shooting was a signal that a family had received one of its soldier sons in a coffin — shooting in the air is a way "to greet the martyrs" in Iraq.

The government's swift ac-

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KING ATTENDS FRIDAY PRAYERS: His Majesty King Hussein performed Friday prayers at Al Tabaa Mosque in the Al Ali district, in Amman. King Hussein and the worshippers listened to the Friday sermon which was delivered by Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs' Secretary General Dr. Ahmad Helayel. Accompanying King Hussein were His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Bin Al Hussein, Prince Talal Ben Mohammad and a number of princes.

# King to visit France

## U.S. should move to mend ties, Jordan says

PARIS (R) — His Majesty King Hussein, criticised by the United States for what it sees as Jordan's support for Iraq in the Gulf war, will visit France next week, President Francois Mitterrand's office said Friday.

Mr. Mitterrand will lunch with King Hussein next Friday, Mr. Mitterrand's office said.

France supported the U.S.-led coalition in the Gulf war, sending war planes and more than 12,000 men to join the international force that fought waged war on Iraq.

The United States criticised Jordan's behaviour during the war but France has kept communications channels open with the Kingdom.

King Hussein said on Thursday that it was up to the United States to repair relations with Jordan

damaged by the Gulf war and he defended Jordan's stance during the conflict.

"Well now, things have gone wrong," he said in a NBC television interview from Amman.

"I believe that there is still a lot of misunderstanding that hopefully will be cleared up in the time ahead. And I think that we are quite comfortable with our stand."

"We believe that we acted on principle in the interest of all concerned, in the interest of peace, and when this is realised I'm sure that things will improve."

The King said he was sorry that the U.S. Senate, over the objections of the Bush administration, voted Wednesday to block \$55 million in military and economic aid to Jordan.

On current efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, King Hussein said Jordan would not agree to be a substitute for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in peace talks with Israel.

But he said that if the Palestinian leadership asked Jordan to field a joint delegation for such talks, he would consider doing so.

King Hussein said he saw no way to resolve the conflict without the participation of the Palestinians.

"It is so very, very important that they participate, they have their say, they have their word, and they contribute their share for peace," he said. "Only then can we have peace and stability in this region. And we'll support and help in any way we can toward that end."

# PLO: 210 Palestinians killed in Kuwait

TUNIS (R) — A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) spokesman accused Kuwaitis Friday of having killed 210 Palestinians and tortured hundreds, including children.

This was the highest toll yet reported for post-war reprisals in the emirate which have aroused concern abroad.

Kuwaitis are angry over support by the PLO for Iraq's invasion and occupation. The Palestinian community in the emirate has dropped to about 170,000 from 400,000 before the Iraqi invasion.

The PLO here said 210 Palestinians had been tortured to death or executed by firing squad or hanging.

Bassam Abu Sharif, senior political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, said several hundred other Palestinians, including children under 16, had been tortured by Kuwaiti police.

He added that parts of the Mubarak hospital in Kuwait City were used for torture sessions, and the dead were buried in mass graves.

He said Palestinians had been killed by Kuwaitis and people of other nationalities, without saying which.

Mr. Abu Sharif called on U.S. President George Bush to get human rights principles applied in the Gulf and criticised U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar for what he called silence on the issue.

Human rights workers and witnesses say dozens of Palestinians, Iraqi civilians and Jordanians have been beaten, tortured and in some cases shot dead in a witch-hunt against suspected collaborators.

A human rights group said Thursday that 30 to 40 people, mainly Palestinians, had been killed and 2,000 jailed, many of them tortured, in acts of post-war revenge by the Kuwaitis.

Middle East Watch, a New York-based rights group, said the Kuwaiti government was aware of abuses and was trying to curb them but had only limited control over army units and freelance

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# Bush administration fights cut in aid to Jordan

WASHINGTON (USIA) — A senior Bush administration official says the United States wants to restore good relations with Jordan, a "key" country in the Middle East, and called on Congress to continue U.S. aid to that country.

"Jordan has been a long-time friend of the United States, and we want to get that relationship back on the basis of friendship," John H. Kelly, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, told the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East.

"The administration wants to have the flexibility to continue the assistance to Jordan. Clearly after a period of estrangement, we want to get over that," Mr. Kelly said.

But while officials from the departments of State and De-

fence, and the Agency for International Development testified Wednesday in the House of Representatives in favour of such aid, the Senate voted against giving \$57.2 million in economic and military aid to Jordan.

Representative Lee Hamilton (Democrat of Indiana), the subcommittee chairman, told the administration witnesses testifying on the 1992 U.S. foreign affairs budget that House members will be hard-pressed not to approve the same Senate measure or a similar one.

"We've got to have some help," explaining to constituents why it is that their tax dollars should go to aid the economy of a country which sided against the United States in the Gulf war, Hamilton said, adding:

Mr. Hamilton said: "We're not

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# Increasing attacks reported on Israelis

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian stabbed an Israeli in a Tel Aviv suburb late Thursday in the latest wave of knife attacks on Israelis, Israel Radio said.

Earlier Thursday a Palestinian labourer stabbed two Israeli soldiers and relatives buried a Jewish merchant who died in a separate stabbing attack the day before.

Police Minister Roni Milo will seek cabinet approval Sunday to prevent unmarried Arab youths from the occupied territories from entering Israel, Israel Radio said (see page 2). Most attacks on Israelis have been carried out by single youths.

The latest stabbing occurred in the Tel Aviv suburb of Beni Barak when an Arab assaulted a Jewish couple waiting at a bus stop, army radio said. The 24-year-old victim was reported his condition as stable with a knife wound in the lower back.

Police apprehended a 25-year-old Palestinian suspect from the West Bank town of Nablus shortly after the attack, army radio said. Police said the Palestinian was apparently acting out of nationalist motives.

The earlier attack on the two soldiers took place in Hod Hasharon north of Tel Aviv. The attacker was wounded, beaten by civilians and also arrested, Israel Radio said.

According to the radio, the attacker, an 18-year-old Palestinian from the occupied Gaza Strip, acted calmly and used two knives in Thursday's incident.

The wounded soldiers pursued him and fired in the air. They were joined by civilians who hurled stones and sticks at the Palestinian, eventually capturing him inside a carpentry workshop.

On Wednesday, an Arab fatally stabbed a Jewish furniture merchant to death and dumped his body in a warehouse.

The incident in the town of Hadera, 40 kilometres (25 miles) north of Tel Aviv, Police said they began a manhunt for the attacker.

Police identified the victim as Mordechai Roichman, 70, and said police reinforcements were rushed to the town to prevent anti-Arab violence.

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## Israel may impose new curbs

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Police Minister Roni Milo will recommend that the government curtail entry of young, unmarried Palestinian men into Israel from the occupied territories, in response to a spate of knife attacks on Jews.

Police suspect Palestinians of stabbing and wounding three Israelis in two separate attacks Thursday. A Palestinian is also suspected in the fatal stabbing of a 70-year-old Jewish merchant on Wednesday.

Police ministry spokesman Rafi Levy said Mr. Milo made the decision during a meeting with police commissioner Yaacov Turner and senior commanders Thursday.

"It was decided that Milo should recommend to the government measures to limit the knife attacks, for example denying entry to high-risk populations such as young men from the West Bank and Gaza Strip who are not married and do not have children," Mrs. Levy told Reuters.

On Thursday morning, an Arab stabbed and wounded two Israeli soldiers at a bus stop in the central town of Hod Hasharon. He was arrested.

Police said the suspect carried a guide produced by Hamas, an Islamic fundamentalist movement, on how to attack soldiers.

The second attack was on Thursday night when a Palestinian from the occupied territories stabbed and wounded an Israeli man in the town of Bnei Brak near Tel Aviv. The victim was in stable condition, a hospital spokesman said.

Police believe Palestinians also stabbed to death a 70-year-old Jewish merchant Wednesday in the town of Hadera.

Arab stone-throwers seriously wounded a girl travelling in a car Wednesday night.

Less than two weeks ago, a young Palestinian stabbed four Israeli women to death in West Jerusalem, the day before U.S. Secretary of State James Baker visited Israel to promote an Arab-Israeli peace plan.

The latest death brought to 68 the number of Jews killed in the 39 months of the intifada. Nearly 1,100 Palestinians have also died, most of them killed by Israeli forces.

All the recent stabbings took place within the green line. The army previously imposed lengthy curfews and strict limitations on Palestinian workers entering Israel to prevent violence during the Gulf war.

The restrictions have been eased since the end of the war, but the number of workers entering Israel is still drastically reduced.

## 'U.S. sent confusing signals to Iraq'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The administration sent a blizzard of confusing signals that may well have misled Saddam Hussein about U.S. intentions in the days before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, a leading congressional Democrat charged Thursday.

Representative Lee Hamilton, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Middle East Subcommittee, cited conflicting public statements by Pentagon and State Department officials beginning July 17, two weeks before the invasion.

"It is a record which confused me, confused this subcommittee... and it is not unreasonable to think it might have confused Saddam Hussein as well," Mr. Hamilton told former U.S. Ambassador to Iraq April Glaspie.

Ms. Glaspie, on Capitol Hill for her second straight day of testimony, countered that after her meeting with President Saddam in the early morning hours of July 25, "there was no doubt in my mind that he knew we meant business."

While she did not directly threaten the use of military force if Iraq moved against Kuwait, Ms. Glaspie did make clear to the Iraqi leader that the United States would defend the sovereignty of its friends in the Gulf and its own vital interests in the region, she said.

Where Iraq miscalculated was not in assessing U.S. intent, but in judging its own military power against that of the United States, she concluded.

"It wasn't until the second day of the ground war, when (it) had no army left, that (it) finally realized," (it) could not win militarily, Ms. Glaspie testified.

Mr. Hamilton hammered at what he said was confused American public diplomacy, citing statements by State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler and Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly that the United States had "no special defence or security commitments to Kuwait."

He questioned how Ms. Glaspie could be so certain Iraq realised U.S. seriousness. "That language conveys just the opposite," he said.

The harshest attack on Ms. Glaspie herself came from Rep. Tom Lantos who pronounced himself "appalled by the frighteningly flawed judgment you displayed."

To Ms. Glaspie's assertion that President Saddam knew the United States would react militarily, Mr. Lantos said: "Very few people were sure we would move militarily, on this committee or in this country. ... I think you need to have a very high dose of humility, in retrospect."

Rep. Stephen Solarz asked Ms.

Glaspie whether the department would make available the cable she sent to Washington containing her account of the July 25 meeting with President Saddam. He said he wanted to see whether the cable backed up Ms. Glaspie's version.

Ms. Glaspie said she would not personally object to such a request but that turning over diplomatic cables to Congress would set a bad precedent and have a chilling effect on future conversations between ambassadors and heads of state.

In her second day of testimony, Ms. Glaspie also gave the first public account of what she had done since leaving Baghdad for Washington on July 30. She said she worked long hours at the State Department, writing analyses, reviewing cables from overseas and on three occasions meeting President George Bush for in-depth discussions of the crisis.

After the invasion, Iraq released a transcript portraying Ms. Glaspie as trying to appease Iraq, assuring him the United States wouldn't do much if it moved against Kuwait.

The State Department wouldn't disown the transcript, and Ms. Glaspie would not discuss it.

"We considered the Iraqi transcript to be a sideshow," State Department deputy spokesman Richard Boucher said Thursday. "We were not interested in starting a side debate on that transcript."

He rejected a reporter's observation that a failure to disavow the transcript sullied Ms. Glaspie's reputation.

He said Secretary of State James Baker and President Bush "stood up for Ambassador Glaspie" during the crisis, characterising accusations that she had given Iraq a "green light" to invade Kuwait as "just ludicrous."

Wednesday, Ms. Glaspie told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that she had nothing to apologise for.

The "so-called" transcript released by the Iraqis, she said, was a distortion. It was "selectively edited." It was "disinformation."

"One way to edit maliciously is to cut off the second half of the sentence," she said.

So while it was true that she said the United States didn't want to interfere in Arab-Arab disputes, Ms. Glaspie said she also told President Saddam: "We would insist on settlements being made in a non-violent manner, not by threat, not by intimidation and certainly not by aggression."

That part, she said, the Iraqi editors left out. "She did great," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Thursday. "The truth will out."

## Sharia code comes into force in Sudan

KHARTOUM, (R) — Sudan's military government ushered in a new Islamic Sharia legal code Friday reintroducing such punishments as amputation of hands for theft, death by stoning for adultery and beheading for murder.

But the new criminal code will apply only to the predominantly Muslim north and not the mainly-Christian and animist south.

High Judicial Council Secretary General Jaleddin Osman, quoted by state-run Radio Omdurman, said the new code had been distributed to all courts and it would come into effect on Friday.

Sharia law, a sensitive and controversial issue in Sudan, has been in force here for the past eight years but the specified punishments, or hudud, have not been implemented since the 1985 overthrow of President Jaafar Numeiri.

Most southerners contend the Islamic code makes them second-class citizens.

The 21-month-old military government of Lieutenant General Omar Hassan Al Bashir, which worked out the new code, has said that the southern state of Equatoria, Upper Nile and Bahr Al Ghazal will be exempted.

But southerners say that the exemption covers only five articles of the 186-article code — those that concern specified punishment or hudud.

When Mr. Numeiri, who now lives in exile in Cairo, was deposed by his army commander, General Abdul Rahman Swaridhab, the hudud were immediately frozen but the other provisions in the Sharia code remained in force.

Hudud include such punishments as amputation of hands for theft, stoning to death for adultery and beheading for murder.

Gen. Bashir's government has been keen to distance its version of Sharia law from that of Mr. Numeiri, which has been condemned by Sudanese in both the south and in the north.

It says that spying by informers has no place in its version of the code, which would not permit the conviction of a defendant on mere suspicion.

It adds that courts will not rush to punish offenders immediately as in Mr. Numeiri's time but will give wrongdoers opportunities and time to change their way of life.

## International agency seeks to repatriate foreigners stranded in Safwan and Kuwait

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A team of international experts was due in Kuwait City Friday to assess the situation of expatriates stranded on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border and Kuwait itself, after fleeing the unrest in Iraq following the Gulf war, and arrange their repatriation, officials said in Amman Friday.

The dispatch of the delegation, representing the Geneva-based International Organisation for Migration (IOM), came in response to requests by several countries, including Sri Lanka, Egypt and Sudan, said Alfred Kottek, head of the IOM mission in Amman.

The team, which comprises the top three experts of the IOM in Geneva dealing with the fallout of the Gulf crisis, will seek to extend all possible assistance to stranded expatriates near the Iraqi border town of Safwan and in Kuwait itself, Mr. Kottek told the Jordan Times.

The IOM has been informed by the Egyptian government that around 3,000 Egyptian nationals are holed up in Kuwaiti territory, inside bunkers built by the Iraqi army during the seven-month occupation of the emirate, Mr.

Kottek said. "That's about all the definite information and numbers we have at the moment," he said adding that the Egyptian Embassy in Amman was in contact with the IOM over the problem.

In all probability, Mr. Kottek said, the Egyptians could be expatriates in Iraq who fled the unrest in southern Iraq since there is very little possibility that they could have been expatriates in Kuwait itself.

But it remained unexplained Friday how they managed to cross into Kuwaiti territory, particularly because American troops and Kuwaiti security forces were keeping a close watch on the border crossing and discouraging even Kuwaiti nationals from entering the emirate pending improvement of basic services such as water and power supply and food distribution.

In addition, several thousand others, mostly Egyptians and Asians, are reportedly stuck in the border town of Safwan, with the Kuwaiti and Saudi authorities denying them entry to their territory without proper arrangement for their transport home.

What is worrisome is the possibility that the number of stranded could rise to tens of thousands. Close to one million Egyptians

remain in Iraq, accounting for the biggest expatriate community in the embattled country.

"Our delegation will assess the situation and set up a structure in place to repatriate those stranded," Mr. Kottek told the Jordan Times. He indicated that the system could involve IOM guarantees that the expatriates will stay on in Kuwait or Saudi territory only for the duration of their overland transport or airlift home.

"It is relatively easy for us to arrange the transport home of Egyptians," Mr. Kottek said explaining that one of the main options under consideration was overland transport to Saudi Arabia and then across the Saudi-Jordanian border to Aqaba from where the Egyptians could be ferried home aboard boats to the port of Nuweibeh.

The other option is to bus them across Iraq to Jordan through Al Ruweished border and then to Aqaba, but it remained unclear whether this would be possible in view of the security situation in southern Iraq.

In the case of Asians, the most feasible system is to take them to northern Saudi Arabia and airlift them home, but this depends on the number of people involved,

Mr. Kottek said. Reports said that expatriates in southern Iraq, dominated by Egyptians and Sudanese, are continuing to flood towards Safwan from southern Iraqi towns, where a Shiite rebellion broke out after the end of the Gulf war. Iraqi government forces were said to have taken complete control over the main southern port of Basra last week, but living and security conditions were described as abysmal by refugees arriving at Safwan, according to reports in the Western press.

Mr. Kottek said the IOM was ready to dispatch vehicles to Iraq to fetch expatriates to Amman and arrange their repatriation. Many expatriates are believed to be stuck in Baghdad itself with little money to pay for their passage to Jordan. Transport costs in Iraq have gone up by as much as 10 times as a result of skyrocketing prices for vehicle fuel.

Hundreds of Sri Lankans and Bangladeshis and a few Pakistanis are stranded in the Iraqi capital, living in scattered areas, with little help from their governments which have not reopened their embassies there after closing the missions at various stages in the run-up to and during the Gulf war.

## Germany to ask U.S. how it calculates war costs

BONN (AP) — Germany said Thursday it will ask the United States how it calculated Gulf war costs, and indicated it will also ask Washington whether it needs the remainder of funds promised by Bonn.

The statement could intensify a debate in Washington over whether Germany and other allies are trying to hold back on money they pledged to help cover U.S. Gulf war costs.

On Tuesday, the U.S. Senate passed a bill that would ban arms sales to Germany and other U.S. allies until they deliver all the Gulf war assistance they had pledged.

Dieter Vogel, spokesman for Chancellor Helmut Kohl, said Finance Minister Theodor Waigel will be travelling to Washington on Monday and Tuesday to discuss the funds with U.S. officials.

Mr. Vogel said that Mr. Waigel will expect the United States to provide a complete accounting of the Gulf war costs.

In response to German announcement Thursday that it will ask the United States how it calculated Gulf war costs, U.S. presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater said: "I'm sure we'll give them whatever they need" by way of an accounting.

"We're pleased by their public statement today that they intend to provide the entire \$5.5 bil-

lion," said Fitzwater, adding: "If the costs are less than the contributions, we certainly wouldn't keep the money. We would return it."

Germany says it has paid two-thirds of \$2.2 billion marks \$5.5 billion it promised to the United States. The third payment falls due on March 28.

Mr. Vogel said Germany "stands by its agreed-to payment obligations to the United States of America. That also holds true for the date of the final due installment."

But he said Germany wants to discuss with U.S. officials "how the American government assesses the total costs of the Gulf war, and how that affects the amount to be contributed by the allies."

Germany's contribution to the Gulf war was primarily financial because the country's constitution has been interpreted as banning the use of troops outside NATO areas or in regions of crisis.

Mr. Kohl has pledged to seek an amendment to the constitution to allow German troops to participate in international military actions.

During his trip to Washington, Mr. Waigel is also expected to discuss developments in the Soviet Union as well as in Central and Southeastern Europe.

## 1 Kuwaiti port reopened, another badly damaged

KUWAIT (R) — One of Kuwait's two main ports has reopened to shipping but the other remains closed and in a bad state after the Gulf war, a government minister said Friday.

Acting Planning Minister Salman Abdul Razak Al Mutawa said Shuaiba port, 70 kilometres south of Kuwait City, reopened Monday after being cleared of mines and wreckage by the U.S.-led coalition.

Mr. Mutawa said ships were using Shuaiba, Kuwait's most modern port which is close to the Ahmadi oil fields.

He said it would be preferable for ships using the port to be of a roll-on, roll-off type "because of lack of labour and because certain cranes are not functioning."

"It's picking up. With time, it will be in a better position," he added.

He said the other port at Shuaiba, close to Kuwait City, was

in a "hell of a mess following the Iraqi occupation."

"It is not functioning at all. The cranes, the transport possibilities, all the facilities that make it function have been ruined," he said.

He could not say how long it would take for Shuaiba to get back to operation.

Kuwaitis are struggling to get back to normal after the seven-month Iraqi occupation and six-week Gulf war. Water is rationed in Kuwait City, shops are closed and most areas are without electricity.

The country is littered with wrecked vehicles and the allies are clearing mines on land and in the Gulf.

Both ports have container facilities. Shuaiba, site of Kuwait's most modern refinery, was used mainly for oil field and industrial supplies and shuwaikh largely for commercial goods.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Turkish police station bombed

IZMIR, Turkey (AP) — Unknown assailants threw two bombs at a police station in this Aegean coastal city Thursday, killing one policeman, the semi-official Anatolia news agency said. There were no immediate claims of responsibility for the incident. The news agency said the assailants threw the bombs at the police station in the city's Caymahallesi district from a vacant building next door at 9:15 p.m. (1915 GMT). Anatolia said another policeman was wounded, but local reporters contacted by telephone said six policemen were injured in the attack. In a separate incident in Istanbul Thursday, unknown assailants bombed a state tax office, causing damage, Anatolia said. An anonymous caller to newspapers in Istanbul said the Kurdistan Communist Party and 13 March Young Communists Union were responsible for the bombing in Istanbul.

### Bomb blast kills Afghan's guard

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — An Afghan guerrilla sentry was blown to bits and another was injured when a bomb exploded near the Peshawar home of an Afghan rebel leader, police said Friday. The bomb exploded on Thursday night beside a wooden cabin guarding the street where Janat-ul-Islami leader Buhannuddin Rabbani lived in the Pakistan frontier city. Mr. Rabbani was not at home at the time, and it was not clear who was responsible, a police spokesman said. Jamiat is one of the biggest Afghan guerrilla groups fighting to overthrow the Soviet-supported government in Kabul, but it is also linked in a battle for supremacy with Mujahideen rivals. Mr. Rabbani's main rival is the radical head of Hezb-Islami, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, with whom he signed a peace accord last year. That accord was meant to end years of internecine fighting, but within a few weeks the clashes began again inside Afghanistan, Western diplomats say.

### Soldier listed as dead goes home alive

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian soldier listed killed in the Gulf war turned up at his home village to find his family and friends mourning his death. "I saw one of my friends on his motorcycle and when I asked him to drop me home, he became hysterical and shouted 'ghost, ghost,'" Yasseh Ahmad Ali told the mass-circulation newspaper Al Akhbar. Ali was listed killed when he failed to return to his tank unit during the Gulf fighting. Al Akhbar did not say how Ali came home from the Gulf ahead of the 35,000 other Egyptian troops in the U.S.-led coalition force. The first contingent is due home next Tuesday. Nor did the newspaper say why his family had not been told he was alive. When Ali returned to his village in Sharqiya governorate in the Nile Delta, his mother opened the door in mourning clothes, Al Akhbar reported. She asked him who he wanted, but he eventually convinced her he was her son. She called his father — who fainted on the spot. Major-General Youssif Al Shami, governor of Sharqiya, said Ali's parents would keep the 5,000 pounds (\$1,500) they had received as compensation for his death.

## ADVERTISEMENT

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P.O. Box 2002, Amman, Jordan.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### PRAYER TIMES

06:15 ..... Fajr  
07:32 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuha  
11:42 ..... Dhur  
15:18 ..... 'Asr  
17:52 ..... Maghreb  
19:18 ..... 'Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetfeth, Tel. 511741  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 625285  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624581, Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637441  
De la Salle Church Tel. 61757  
Terrenceau Church Tel. 623366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541  
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel.

626543, Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331, Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261, St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751, American International Church Tel. 685326, Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
The Kingdom will remain under the effect of the depression which affected the region Friday. Therefore, it will be cloudy and rainy at times, and drop in temperatures will take place. Winds

will be southwesterly fresh. In Aqaba, winds will be southerly moderate and seas rough.  
Min./max. temp.  
Amman ..... 8 / 15  
Aqaba ..... 17 / 22  
Deserts ..... 11 / 19  
Jordan Valley ..... 14 / 20  
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 19, Aqaba 24. Humidity readings: Amman 97 per cent. Aqaba 81 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Walid Al Masri ..... 675485  
Dr. Tawfik Qab'ah ..... 629709  
Dr. Arslan Al Akshab ..... 602507

Dr. Mufodd Tannous ..... 884481  
Firas pharmacy ..... 661912  
Firdous pharmacy ..... 770336  
Al Asma pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nurokh pharmacy ..... 626702  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 630730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 634545  
Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 637661

IRBID:  
Dr. Ziad Al Bakri ..... (—)  
Al Sharan pharmacy ..... 127525

ZARQA:  
Dr. Youssef Awad ..... (—)  
Khalef pharmacy ..... 983417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue ..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police ..... 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 591228  
Blood Bank ..... 771271  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 605803  
Price Complaints ..... 961176  
Water and Sewerage Complaints ..... 877447  
Amman Municipality Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information (Directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repair ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111

Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 515615  
Electric Power Company ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 08-53300  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport ..... 08-53300

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khaleel Maternity, J. Amn ..... 642816  
Alkhal Maternity, J. Amn ..... 642441/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642562  
Jabal Amman ..... 638140  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 664171/4  
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131  
Al-Mushter Hospital ..... 645845  
Abdali Hospital ..... 667221/8  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 666727/57  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen ..... 777101/3  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 775111/25  
Army, Marjeh ..... 891611/16  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 622489/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... 109983323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... 109991071  
The Sina Hospital ..... 109986732  
IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... 10275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... 10272275  
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital ..... 102347100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... 103314111

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.  
Banana ..... 300 / 450  
Banana (Mukammal) ..... 450 / 400  
Beans ..... 1000 / 900

Cabbage ..... 100 / 50  
Carrot ..... 230 / 180  
Cauliflower ..... 200 / 150  
Cucumbers (large) ..... 300 / 250  
Cucumbers (small) ..... 440 / 370  
Dates ..... 500 / 400  
Eggplant ..... 260 / 200  
Garlic ..... 600 / 500  
Grapefruit ..... 250 / 200  
Lemon ..... 280 / 240  
Lettuce (per one) ..... 150 / 100  
Marrow (large) ..... 200 / 150  
Marrow (small) ..... 380 / 320  
Onion (dry) ..... 280 / 240  
Onion (green) ..... 300 / 150  
Orange ..... 360 / 300  
Pepper (hot) ..... 880 / 780  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 300 / 240  
Potato ..... 250 / 200  
Radish ..... 120 / 80  
Sage ..... 400 / 300  
Spinach ..... 120 / 80  
Tomatoes ..... 380 / 320



## Prince Hassan lauds AYF

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan voiced appreciation to and pride in the Arab Youth Forum (AYF) members. In a reply message to the AYF's Board of Trustees, Prince Hassan said he was pleased with the forum's achievements and the pioneering steps it has so far taken.

"The forum's achievements will serve as the basis for formulating the youth's future outlook," Prince Hassan said.

The forum had earlier sent a message to Prince Hassan thanking him for his continuous support of the forum and renewing confidence in him as president of the AYF.

Prince Hassan had earlier asked Assistant Director of his office Abdullah Touqan to help the forum provide the right atmosphere to unleash capacities and capabilities of youth and to organise their various activities.

On Friday, the forum decided to appoint Abdullah Abu Alim as coordinator of the forum's various activities branches, according to Mr. Touqan.

The forum also appointed Khalid Al Armouti as coordinator for the administrative and services affairs.

The forum also formed four committees: One for endorsing the forum's statutes and supervising the forthcoming elections, another one for financial affairs, a third for membership affairs, and a fourth for external relations.

## ILO urged to protect Palestinians

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Dughmi Thursday briefed an International Labour Organisation (ILO) fact-finding mission on the situation of Arab workers and civilian population in the occupied territories and reviewed the oppressive Israeli practice against them.

At a meeting with the mission, Dughmi called on the ILO to provide support to the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation to enable them to live a decent life on their national soil and to hold in the face of the Israeli attempts which aim at uprooting and evicting them from their homeland in a bid to replace them with Jewish settlers.

Mr. Dughmi stressed the Israeli plans geared to prevent Arab workers from getting involved in the economic sector in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The minister cited Qiyoun Qara massacre, during which eight Palestinian workers were killed by Israelis, as a live evidence of the Israeli intentions against Arabs.

The minister added that the Gulf crisis had left a negative impact on the social and economic life of Arab workers in the occupied territories and has led to rising unemployment among them.

Mr. Dughmi referred to the frequent Israeli harassment of Arab workers and the intervention of the Israeli authorities in the workers unions and organisations.

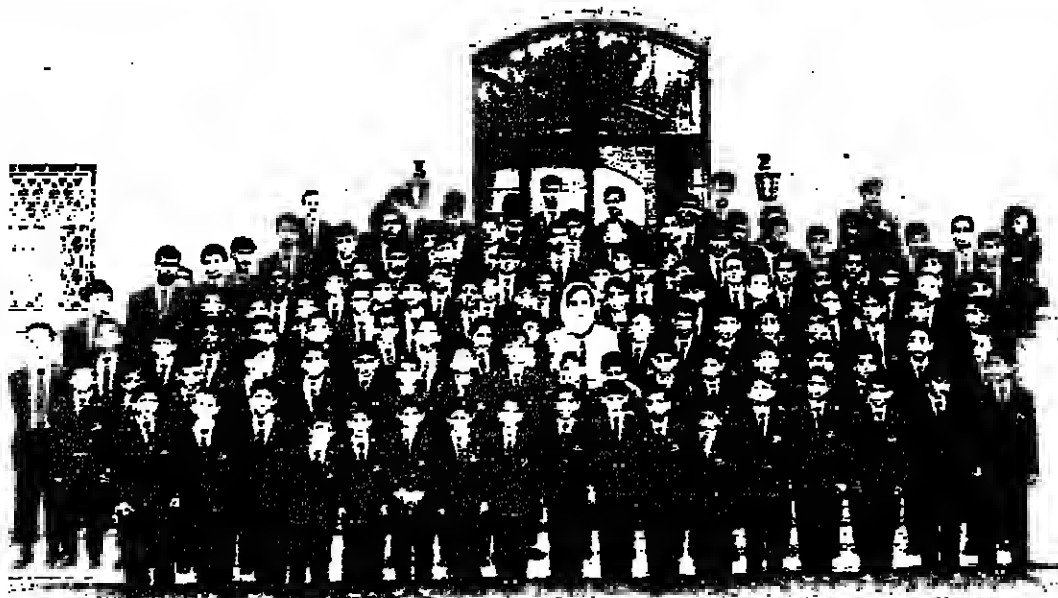
He added that the Israeli authorities have confiscated 52.6 per cent of the West Bank land and 42.3 per cent of the total area of Gaza Strip. He also stressed on the repeated curfews and the ensuing decline of income, rising unemployment and low productivity and the restrictions on movement of people and goods in the occupied territories.

The minister exposed the Israeli attempts to obliterate Arab identity, culture and civilisations, saying that the continuous closure of schools and universities are aimed at depriving the Palestinian people of their right to education and to safeguard their heritage and culture.

The ILO mission received memos from the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs, the General Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce (GFJCC), Amman Chamber of Industry, and the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions (GJTU).

In its memorandum, the Department of Palestinian Affairs referred to the oppressive Israeli measures against the Palestinian people and to the massive dismissal of Palestinian workers.

The GFJCC focussed on the features of the Palestinian labour force and the situation of workers in the occupied territories.



## Queen Mother receives orphans on Mother's day

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty the Queen Mother Zein Al Shara Friday received children from the Um Al Hussein Orphanage, who called at Zahran Palace to

congratulate her on the occasion of Mother's Day. The children thanked the Queen Mother for her continuous support of the orphanage, which has been made

through her support and encouragement, into a model place to rear children and an example which should be emulated in the area of humanitarian work.

## 'Deprivations of all kinds threaten lives of Iraqis'

By Serene Halasa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The post-war period in Iraq is worse than the actual war; the continued economic embargo, the threat of widespread epidemics, lack of food as well as medicine and basic necessities of life threaten the very existence of 18 million Iraqis, according to medical experts who recently arrived from Baghdad.

During a press conference Thursday, one day after their return, three of the seven doctors from Medecins du monde (Doctors of the World) organisation left for Europe, for two weeks, in order to get urgent medical aid for Iraq and to raise public awareness about the situation there.

So far, Medecins du monde, a non-governmental organisation has sent 10 tonnes of medicine and 2 tonnes of milk to Iraq. "This is definitely not enough; we are going back to Paris to get bigger shipments of humanitarian aid to Iraq," Dr Hussein Mansour, a Lebanese neurosurgeon said adding that the future threatens the lives of millions of Iraqis especially newborn babies.

According to United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 2,200 Iraqi children are born every day. These children are at a high risk of dying from dehydration, lack of protein, and global malnutrition. "The last time I saw cases of global malnutrition was in Sudan. What is happening now in Iraq has never been observed before at such a large scale," Dr. Jack Lebas, a specialist in infectious diseases and the president of the Medecins du monde told the press conference.

## New Iraqi banknote yet to gain formal recognition

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A new 25-dinar note introduced by the Iraqi government in January has not yet been widely accepted outside the country. In the absence of clear communications from the Iraqi side, Jordanian authorities are not accepting the new notes, and at least one Asian expatriate has been detained since early February on suspicion of possessing counterfeit currency.

In Baghdad itself large amounts of counterfeit foreign currency have surfaced, adding to the problems faced by the authorities in trying to cope with devastation caused by the allied air assault on Iraq, officials said.

The new 25-dinar note was introduced by the Iraqi government with announcements in the local media, but the outside world has not been formally notified of the issuance, banking officials said.

"The note was issued at the height of the war, and in the absence of proper external communications the Iraqi government appears not to have sent any notification outside," said a banking official.

Asian expatriates who crossed into Jordan last week have reported to their embassy here that the new notes were not accepted at the Jordanian border post of

These newborns are also threatened by the widespread epidemics in Iraq, especially that these children have not received vaccines since September 1990, the doctors said. "All this is the direct result of the economic embargo against Iraq," Lebas said adding that they (members of Medecins du monde) will call for the immediate lift of economic sanctions against Iraq on a humanitarian basis.

"We hope the European Community (EC) will help us, and we hope that this embargo against Iraq is lifted because it is felt mostly by civilians," Dr. Mansour said.

"There is no bread available in Iraq because there is no electricity or petrol," Dr. Patrick David, an anaesthetist said. "Women and children in Iraq should not suffer as a consequence of politics," Dr. Lebas said in answer to a question about the mounting pressures exerted by the American and British governments on Iraq, intended to topple the Iraqi president's regime.

The team of seven doctors toured three hospitals in Baghdad, including Saddam's Pediatric Hospital, the Red Crescent Hospital and Ibn Bitar Hospital. "Medical supplies and surgical equipment are not available in most hospitals," Dr. Lebas said. "It is very hard for the health system to work without the basic facilities," he added.

The seven-member was only able to visit the area around Baghdad. "The situation is not safe enough for us to go outside Baghdad," Dr. Lebas said adding that the four members who stayed behind in Iraq were told that they would be able to go to the south as soon as the situation quieted down.

The team met with health officials in Iraq to discuss the deteriorating health situation and the basic needs that should be met. "We met with the director of the Health Ministry, the president of the Arabic Bureau of the Red Crescent and some doctors and surgeons," Dr. Lebas said. "According to these officials, the medical situation out of Baghdad is worse," he added.

Meanwhile, Baghdad residents and people arriving here from the Iraqi capital report a surge in the presence of counterfeit currency — mostly American dollars — there.

"There is little doubt that counterfeit notes have entered Iraq in large quantities since the Gulf crisis," said a Baghdad resident. "Most of it appears to have come across the eastern border," he said in an apparent allusion to Iran, which has reported several cases of massive counterfeit currency surfacing in the Iranian market.

"Some of the American dollars — mainly \$100 notes — which surfaced in Tehran are of excellent quality," said a banking expert. "It has been observed that such notes escape even some of the advanced methods of detection," he said.

In many cases, the counterfeit passed dozens of bands, including commercial banks, before they were found to be fake, the expert said. "It took sophisticated equipment at the central bank to establish that they were not genuine," he said.

"Persia is famous for producing miniatures and excellent designs, particularly carpets and rugs," commented another expert. "It is not strange that some of their work surpasses some of the experienced forgers even in Europe,"

Many who did not know of the new issuance had brought the note to the attention of immediate officials who "reassured everyone that the notes are genuine," she told the Jordan Times.

## Press Association's elections highlight journalists' problems

By Nermeen Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Press Association held its bi-annual elections Friday amidst mounting criticism by member and non-member journalists over the ineffectiveness of the association and its increasingly deteriorating financial situation.

For the first time in its history the position of president of the association went to an incumbent uncontested although the majority of members felt it was time for a stronger leadership to confront a host of challenges facing Jordanian journalists.

A number of likely candidates, while dismayed over the lack of competition for the position, said that they were not ready to take up the problems of an association in shambles.

"The association is in tatters," a former president of the association told the Jordan Times in answer to a question over his rejection of attempts to interest him in again running for the position.

Another prominent journalist approached by members to run for the seat of president said he had refused the offer "because any new president would inherit a very, very sad and complex legacy."

The annual report of the association's financial situation showed a deficit of JD 23,423 in the health insurance spending alone, while any credit to the association as mentioned in the run-down of the accounts bypassed the hundreds into the thousands only because of a JD 10,000 donation by His Majesty King Hussein.

Many journalists feel that it would be useless to even attempt to strengthen the association but they cite different reasons for their conclusions.

While some maintain that former elected council members themselves did not assert their authority in defending fellow journalists by wasting time on marginal issues, the majority see the monopoly on newspapers published in Jordan to be the main contributor to the failing

finances of the association and its limited authority among journalists.

"Look at their annual report, their only achievements are a long list of wishful thinking," an angry journalist lashed out.

The association has been tardy in protecting its members whether in confrontations with the government or in defending their rights against expulsions from their jobs," said a member of the association who boycotted Friday's elections.

have to get the approval of the cabinet and the approval of Parliament before any such step is made," a former member of the council said.

"The association should be the master of its charter without going back to the executive authority," he added.

But, the government argues, the national charter which is expected to govern the political, social and economic life in Jordan will deal with the issue of the media and that laws cannot be

other two newspapers Al Dustour and Al Shaah, have not made moves to providing the same service to their employees.

Other manifestations of "monopoly" by newspapers over journalists, according to association members, including employing non-registered journalists within the ranks of newspaper without consulting the association.

The association's laws require that all active journalists be members of the association even if they were working for international media organisations.

However, journalists who are not members of the association insist that the membership laws of the association deter many journalists from even applying.

"Journalism is a talent. You either have it or you don't. It cannot be guided by laws on education," said a journalist who works for several international media organisations and is not a member of the association.

Journalists who suffer most from the membership laws are those who have studied in countries in Europe or the United States and are not qualified to get their degrees approved by the Ministry of Higher Education.

However, to the association, the biggest problem in that particular issue is the number of journalism graduates from Yarmouk University who have stayed unemployed after graduation.

"If there were more newspapers or if the existing newspapers made an honest effort to absorb these graduates it would not be such a major problem," an association member complained.

Journalism graduates from Yarmouk University become members of the association upon graduation while other would-be members are required to prove a varying working period in one of the local newspapers before they can become members.

"I got a job with an international news agency and did not get one with any of the local newspapers; what is wrong with that? Why do I have to show a year's experience at a local newspaper when I am journalism graduate from the U.S.?" one pointed out.

## JMA denounces practices against Jordanians in Kuwait

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Medical Association (JMA) has denounced the oppressive practices against Jordanians and Palestinians living in Kuwait and called on all Arab political and popular organisations and human rights organisations to move quickly to end their sufferings.

In a statement issued Thursday, the JMA said that Palestinians and Jordanians living in Kuwait are now being subjected to the ugliest forms of psychological and physical torture, killing, chasing and detention.

"The massive killing of Jordanians and Palestinians in broad daylight constitutes a violation of all international norms and charters and contravenes with the Arab values and principles," the statement said.

The statement blamed the killings, detention and torture on the ruling Kuwaiti authorities and the "mercenary and gangs of terror, who are attached to them and receive their blessing and support."

"These practices expose the conspiratorial role played by the Kuwaiti outlaws, who deviate from the principles of the Arab Nation and are acting against its will," the statement said.

While denouncing these oppressive measures against the Jordanian and Palestinian citizens in Kuwait and the acts of terror being carried out by anti-Arab agents, the statement calls on the Jordanian government to shoulder its responsibility for ensuring the safety and property of Jordanians and Palestinians living in Kuwait.

It also calls on all popular, political and intellectual organisations in the Arab World and all humanitarian organisations to voice out their condemnation and to move quickly to put an end to the massive killing of our citizens in Kuwait."

**JORDAN TIMES**  
TEL. 667171

## Shipping industry experts expect slow recovery

By Nur Sati  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Aqaba will be soon crowded with local tourists again, but the shipping industry may not be so quick to recover its movement in the Port of Aqaba after the disruption caused by the Gulf crisis as Mr. Tawfiq Kassar, chairman of the Shipping Agents Association pointed out.

"It depends on the political situation in Iraq and whether the embargo is lifted entirely," he said. "It also depends on whether Syria will allow Iraqi goods to pass through its ports, in which case the transport and traffic to Iraq via Aqaba would be adversely affected," he added.

Before Aug. 2, Jordan was handling nine million tonnes of incoming cargo and 9 million tonnes of outgoing cargo, including goods for land transportation to inland cities in Jordan and Iraq. According to Mr. Kassar, shipping used to generate no less than JD 250 million per year in gross income to the various sectors of Jordan's economy. "But when we lost Iraqi cargo, we lost 70 per cent or JD 180 million per year," Mr. Kassar told the Jordan Times.

Throughout the years, Iraq found the Port of Aqaba very convenient with ease in formalities, speed in handling cargo and availability of a large land transport fleet, the Shipping Agents Association asserted.

Since hostilities ceased Mr. Kassar has approached the Lloyds Underwriters Association (an authority that assesses premiums for risk areas) asking them to reconsider the war insurance rate.

"Since March 4 Lloyds declared the war insurance rate was reduced by 50 per cent from the

Far East, which during the war had hiked from \$500 to \$1000," according to Mr. Kassar. From the European countries the insurance rate dropped 75 per cent from \$500 per container during the war. In the Mediterranean areas, Lloyds affirmed that the elevated insurance premium had been lifted.

A Middle East emergency surcharge was also imposed, during the war, some \$360 extra per container, "but this was also lifted as a result of negotiations with regular shipping lines," Mr. Kassar said.

The shipping movement in the Port of Aqaba seems to have a good foundation on which to pick up again, but there is a "snag," many experts say. According to the Shipping Agents Association, the interception of ships is still being conducted by navy vessels from the U.S., France, Spain and Greece. "However, as a result of discussions, the requirements have been reduced slightly, making it easier for ships to conform to requirements for documentables," Mr. Kassar said adding that the "snag still remaining is that all containers must be easily accessible to the inspecting officer."

Some containers remain at the bottom of the hold, which makes it impossible to be opened and the contents checked, Mr. Kassar told the Jordan Times. "Efforts are being made to ease this requirement but it largely depends on the easing of the political situation.

Many ships stopped heading to Aqaba Port since the hostilities broke out, but some others chose to take the risk. Among those are the leading regular lines such as the Red Sea Express (RSE) which maintained regular sailings.

According to Mr. Kassar, the RSE declared that they would continue to serve Aqaba providing inspections stop soon. The RSE is a consortium of the five leading shipowners from Britain, France and Italy serving northern Europe, and the U.K. at bi-monthly intervals. The Jordan National Shipping Line also maintained conventional container services as did the Sudan Line which serves Mediterranean ports.

"Shipping Agents are continuously offering their services. In fact more than 50 per cent of the cargo shipped by containers is booked by merchants in Jordan, through Shipping Agents," Mr. Kassar affirmed.

He added that many of the ships that discharge their cargo in Aqaba port also lift exports of Jordanian products to various parts of the world. "In this regard, earlier this month, the Shipping Association, the Chamber of Industry and Commerce as well as Jordan Trade Association established an office," The office, for promotion of shipping exports, receives inquiries from exporters and also receives from the Shipping Agents Association information about ships unloading at Aqaba and reloading with Jordanian goods for exports, Mr. Kassar said.

For many shipping forwarders, the sea freight has not picked up "the way we wanted it to," Samir Majaj, manager of Jordan Express told the Jordan Times. "It is going to be a slow process," he added. Other forwarders, however, think it may take a few months, Mr. Majaj, whose sea freight declined by 60 per cent, was one of the better off companies because "I took a risk. The shipping that we could sent, we did." Other companies saw their sea freight decline to zero.

## Jordan, Libya discuss ties

TRIPOLI (Petra) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri discussed with his Libyan counterpart Ibrahim Al Bushari the latest developments on the Arab and international arenas at a meeting held at the Libyan Foreign Office. The two officials agreed on the need to support and activate common Arab work and to counter the attempts designed to thwart the efforts made to reach a

peaceful settlement to the region's problems.

Mr. Masri and Mr. Bushari stressed the need for supporting the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and for following the same standard when applying international legitimacy.

The two officials called for

supporting the unity of the Iraqi territory and the withdrawal of foreign forces from these territories and pledged to work jointly towards achieving this purpose by all available means.

Mr. Masri and Mr. Bushari also discussed bilateral relations and stressed the need for widening the scopes of commercial exchange between the two countries.



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## U.S. priorities — Israel, Israel, Israel

IN A recent article (Jordan Times, March 21-22) U.S. Secretary of State James Baker put American priorities in the post-war Middle East as follows: "There are three priorities now for the Middle East," he said. "Gulf security, arms control and Arab/Israeli." Many in the Middle East, including America's war allies, hoped that the Arab-Israeli conflict would be on the top of the U.S. agenda. They hoped, and still hope, for a peaceful solution that would address the Palestinian question and restore to the Palestinians their political rights.

But the Americans look at the "Arab/Israeli" problem differently. The U.S. Senate has recently passed a resolution urging "Arab states to recognise, and end the state of belligerency with Israel," without any reference to the question of Palestine or the occupied Arab territories. And while Arabs wanted to capitalise on the Iraqi threat to use chemical weapons to press for the removal of all mass-destruction weapons from the region, including Israel's nuclear arsenal, the U.S. and Britain are at the moment lobbying for a Security Council resolution that calls for a single moratorium on Iraq.

While the chairman of the U.S.-Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Colin Powell declares that Iraq's remaining forces "no longer pose a serious threat to its neighbours," one fails to understand why the U.S.-insistence on a single moratorium tied with lifting of sanctions at this critical moment when Iraq is struggling to contain an insurrection aimed at its fragmentation and perpetrated by its ambitious neighbours.

If anything, the management of the whole crisis and the war that ensued proves only one thing. The U.S. and Britain's most prominent and undeclared objective, as many in this region believed, was the protection of the state of Israel and its intransigence. While Iraq's disarmament and the Gulf security arrangements take prominence, the Palestine question and the solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict take another demotion: Normalisation of Arab-Israeli ties.

If one was able to understand U.S. and British reasoning and aims and appreciate China's reassertions, one is at loss to understand the French stand. The French had made clear to their Arab friends that they went to the war in order to be able to influence peace. Yet it seems they are satisfied to be on the side of the victor and with a second class seat in the Security Council. On the other hand, Arabs on both sides of the American-made divide will soon realise that they are all losers. For while Iraq has been reduced to a helpless state, Israel, the Arabs' eternal enemy, is the sole beneficiary of the war.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE COMING Arab League meeting in Cairo will be a touchstone for the Arab Nation which is now facing the post Gulf war era, and testing ground for the Arab leaders, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. The paper said that the Arab foreign ministers taking part in the March 30 meeting will be judged not by the agenda for discussions but rather by the attitude of the participating countries which are bound to take joint action in the face of the common challenges in the coming stage. The coming meeting, the paper continued, ought to be marked by a spirit of reconciliation and tolerance; and that a very constructive atmosphere should prevail the deliberations if the Arabs are to reach positive results. The paper said that Arab leaders ought to instruct their foreign ministers on the manner they must conduct their business because they hold the key to reconciliation and future solidarity. It is natural for the Arab masses to look to the coming meeting in Cairo with a great deal of interest, not only because it will be the first since the return of the Arab League headquarters to the Egyptian capital, but also because it is being the first since the Gulf war and the tragedy that had befallen the Arabs causing deep splits in their ranks, the paper noted. The Cairo parley, the paper added, presents a golden opportunity for the Arabs to plug the loopholes obstructing joint action and mend fences so that they can confront the coming stage with greater self-confidence. The Cairo meeting, the paper added, offers the Arabs a chance to safeguard the Arab League as a regional and effective organisation, capable of protecting the nation's interests.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily launches an attack on the U.S. administration for giving orders to its military to shoot down an Iraqi aircraft within Iraq's airspace, and says that the aggression took place while the ceasefire was supposed to be holding. Abdul Rahim Omar notes that the Iraqi plane was not flying in the skies of the United States nor over occupied Palestine, but still it was shot down in an open provocation and total disregard to Iraq's sovereignty. The American cowboy is pursuing his hostile actions against Iraq at a time when he gives orders to Iraq's neighbours to send in their troops to destroy Iraq and cause disturbances in the south and the north of that country, the writer continues. While this is happening, the U.S. administration discloses its intention of imposing humiliating conditions on Baghdad as a condition for withdrawing the occupation forces from southern Iraq; and is in collusion with Britain and Israel over measures that should be adopted against the Iraqi people to deprive them of the means of survival and self-defence, the writer points out. Indeed, he says, the present situation is a source of humiliation to all Arabs, and not to the Iraqi people who are confronting a multitude of enemies and hostile forces. The writer says that the Arab masses alone hold the key to the solution, by striking hard against American interests everywhere until the aggressors stop their atrocities against their Iraqi brothers and sisters.

View from Amman

## And the Mideast's merry-go-round goes round again

NOW THAT the Gulf crisis has been settled to the satisfaction of Israel, the Arab-Israeli conflict is once again entering its usual merry-go-round. Again there appears to be a lot of activity and noise when, in fact, no serious movement is really taking place. Though short in stature, Shamir happens to be a very accomplished magician capable of great feats of sleight of hand. Ministers from various capitals of the West have been lured, as if hypnotised, to Israel, mouthing pious declarations about the correctness of the moment and the necessity of peace. Satisfied with their pilgrimage of homage to the great Shaman-Shamir, they all return empty handed while at the same time thinking they have accomplished great deeds.

No one in the whole world seems to know what Shamir wants except, perhaps, Shamir himself. And Shamir is not telling anyone anyway. And why should he when he gets rewarded for whatever he does or doesn't do. In fact no one seems to be sure whether he did, nor did not indulge himself in this latest crisis. Yet anyway he continues to be rewarded for war damages. What war damages one may ask in a lucid moment yet one never gets any reply. Politicians from the West carrying gifts and tribute continue to come anyway. Not to be outdone, the president of the United States, Mr. George Bush, will soon be arriving too bearing gifts. Like all those before, he too will have a ride on the merry-go-round and will go back smiling with satisfaction though with empty hands. After all, he too will think that the "folks," "the voters back home" are happy with him.

One of the characters in *Alice in Wonderland* says that one has to run very fast to stay in the same place, which in Middle Eastern terms means, the more things seem to change, the more they stay the same.

This writer, like millions of people throughout the world, had hoped that things might change as a result of this latest Gulf crisis. To be true, for a while, only a short moment, they seemed to have changed; at least the talk did. Yet as one Western politician after another comes and goes with a glazed look in his eyes and a satisfied smile on his lips though with empty hands, the old despair descends, like a heavy blanket, on the area once more.

Black clouds are already gathering on the horizon. Talk is that it is Syria's turn now. Turn for what? What did Syria do or not do? No one knows and Shamir is once again not telling. He keeps his cards to himself. Sitting at the centre of the web of the international Zionist organisation with men like Kissinger elsewhere in the weave, Shamir calculates his moves with the usual deadly accuracy designed to kill not to reconcile. Only he and no one else knows the right moment to strike. For here we go again with Shamir saying one thing, Levy another. Sharon yet something else, while the head of state, Herzog, now that he is no longer head of the secret service, tries very hard to sound pious and statesman-like, says something entirely different, that can be interpreted in any way by anyone: all the sounds are discordant and are orchestrated to say nothing. Whom do one believe? The premier, ostensibly angry with Sharon, or Cohen who keeps threatening to resign but never does?

Judging from the past, there seems to be no seriousness on the part of Israel or the Zionised United States to take firm steps towards peace. Speaking of Secretary of State James Baker's "efforts" Mr. Bush says, "I am not putting any time frame..." on them. To the question "why not?", one will get no answer. The

question is the more relevant in view of Mr. Bush's recent meticulousness in sticking to deadlines with regard to the Gulf crisis. But then Mr. Bush would no doubt answer that surely the two matters are different and that while this may appear like a double standard, it is really not the case... We Arabs are just imagining things... that is all. We Arabs need to change the way we look at things.

The double talk and the Orwellian "double-speak" has already reappeared in full force. Shamir insists that he will not talk to President Arafat. No one knows why especially since Mr. Arafat says he does not mind talking to Mr. Shamir and in view of the fact that Mr. Bush has been dropping hints that he may talk to Abu Ammar.

As for the future, it seems locked as firmly as ever in the past. Both Mr. Bush and Shamir are running for reelection next year with their eyes, as usual, riveted not on accommodation or peace, but on political gains. Neither has the capability or the will and determination to step outside the circle of his own limited vision and take the bold decisions that must be taken. Both are tied to the twin tether of their past commitments and opinion polls. It is thus written that both will do what they have done in the past — strike against the helpless body of the Arab World that made itself the more helpless in this past Gulf crisis. And now that the merry-go-round made its full turn, we Arabs find ourselves in the same spot though more prostrate. And our leaders too, wherever they may be, and with very few exceptions, are already astride their wooden horses going round and round on the merry-go-round in hopeless anticipation of catching the brass ring.

By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

## Democracy, self-determination — dangerous words for U.S.

By Alan Elsner  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Democracy and self-determination have become two dangerous concepts in U.S. foreign policy.

Democracy, which the United States for years urged on the Communist nations of Eastern Europe, suddenly threatens to destabilise some of its conservative allies in the Arab World.

Self-determination, another pillar of American foreign policy, could unleash chaos in the seething ethnic cauldrons of the Balkans, Central Europe, the Soviet Union and parts of the Middle East.

"The United States faces a dilemma in the Middle East after the Gulf war: are we going to support the move to democracy or will we leave the future for regional powers?" said Graham Fuller of the Rand Corporation Research Institute.

Democracy is a key demand of the newly freed people of Kuwait. The government in now promising elections within a year and the consequences for neighbouring countries and the Arab World as a whole could be immense.

"There is no status quo ante in Kuwait. The United States is going to have to face the consequences of democracy and it is going to be very destabilising for a considerable period of time," said Fuller.

But the United States, aware of the deep misgivings of its

key ally Saudi Arabia, has stopped short of wholeheartedly endorsing the call for Arab democracy.

"Democracy is a two-edged sword. Islamic fundamentalists will be the principal beneficiaries of democracy and they prove to be undemocratic forces," said Martin Indyk, director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

As seen from Washington, Muslim fundamentalists emerge winners of Arab World elections such as in Jordan and Algeria, because they are the best organised groups with the most coherent message for voters.

The present revolt in Iraq presents the United States with a stark challenge: Should Washington back President Saddam Hussein's opponents — the Kurdish rebels in the north and the Shi'ite Muslims in the south?

So far, the answer from the Bush administration has been no. Washington has repeatedly stated its opposition to Kurdish nationalist aspirations for a separate state and is less than enthusiastic about the prospect of the Shi'ite majority in Iraq taking power.

"The Americans say they want to see Saddam Hussein go, but they are not happy at all about the alternative," said Hoshvar Zebari, a spokesman for the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iraq after speaking to congressmen in Washington last week.

"They are terrified about the

prospect of a fundamentalist regime in Iraq. They prefer a takeover by the military or by (Saddam's rivals in) the Baath Party to keep order in Iraq," he said.

Harvard University scholar Laurie Mylroie said the United States was failing to express long and deeply-held American values as relating to the future of Iraq.

"The passivity of the United States, and its unwillingness to express support for American values will cause the Shi'ites in Iraq to turn increasingly to Iran," she said.

Iraq also dramatises the other nightmare of American foreign policy — that long-suppressed nationalist dreams will bubble up and disrupt the fragile stability of the Middle East, the Soviet Union and Central Europe.

It is already happening in Yugoslavia, where the federal state is crumbling, to the dismay of a Bush administration which finds itself helpless to influence events. Washington is confined to issuing statements appealing to Yugoslavs to reaffirm national unity.

"The United States supports unity, democracy, and dialogue in Yugoslavia," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said on Monday in the latest in a series of such pleas.

The danger, as the United States sees it, even touches relatively stable countries like Czechoslovakia where several

thousand separatist Slovaks last week booted President Vaclav Havel and demanded the right to form their own state.

Ethnic Hungarians in Romania, Turks in Bulgaria and Armenians in Turkey all have their own grievances born of centuries of violent interaction.

If Yugoslavia falls apart, the argument runs, can the Soviet Union be far behind? There, the United States supports the independence movements in the three Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia because they were taken over by Stalin in 1940.

But it does not back separatists in Georgia, Armenia or the Ukraine or ethnic Romanians in Moldova who would like to reunite with their mother country.

A State Department official said the United States meant what it said when it accepted the 1975 Helsinki final act freezing the borders of Europe in their post-1945 positions.

"We don't think it would be helpful to start changing them and it would complicate things for the whole world if the Soviet Union fell apart," he said.

The United States had little influence on such developments but would use what it had to try to ensure that any change took place peacefully and democratically.

In the prevailing view here, that seems a vain hope.

## Arab League, recovering from war, to examine treaty failure

By Jonathan Wright  
Reuters

CAIRO — The Arab League, one of the first victims of the Gulf conflict, is planning a close look at what went wrong with a 1950 defence treaty designed to deal with crises like Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The league is preparing for its first post-war meeting in Cairo on March 30. A senior official of the group said this would be a step towards a renewed commitment by member states to take their treaty obligations seriously.

The Arab League charter prohibits the use of force by member states against other members. If one invades another, the league council can decide on military measures to force it out.

The system did not work in the Kuwait crisis last August because the league acted only after the United States started sending troops to "defend" Saudi Arabia.

A narrow minority of states saw U.S. intervention as more dangerous than the Iraqi invasion itself.

A pro-Kuwaiti group led by Egypt and Saudi Arabia won its way at league meetings, with a majority of one or two votes. The prestige of the institution hit rock bottom and the secretary general, Cheddi Klibi of Tunisia, resigned. "We had a tragic crisis which was unfortunately a setback for the league's efforts... We have for some time been working very hard to overcome the misunderstandings which took place," Adnan Omran, an assistant secretary general of the league, told Reuters Wednesday.

Officials in the Gulf states, particularly Kuwait, said it would take time to heal the rift.

The atmosphere has again been soured by widespread reports that Kuwaiti soldiers and civilians have taken revenge on Jordanians and Palestinians alleged to have collaborated with Iraqi troops in Kuwait during the seven-month occupation.

Omran said the league's move to Cairo, a traumatic political event because of Tunisian resistance, had not been easy and the organisation's staff was only at 70 per cent of strength. Many Tunisian employees resigned last year.

But work on the hurriedly-renovated headquarters building is almost complete, he said. He said the question of appointing a new secretary general to replace Klibi was "one for the future."

Egypt is expected to lobby for an Egyptian candidate but will not start the process until it is assured of unanimous support, diplomats said.

— the six Gulf states, Egypt, Syria, Algeria, Djibouti, Morocco, Somalia, Sudan and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Those missing include Iraq and four countries widely seen as sympathetic to Baghdad — Jordan, Mauritania, Tunisia and Yemen.

The other two states are Lebanon and Libya.

His Majesty King Hussein and Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi discussed the league meeting by telephone and the official Libyan news agency, JANA, said they agreed all states should attend.

Omran, a Syrian, said he saw signs that Arab states were coming back to the league as "the institution which embodied Arab aspirations to joint defence and economic cooperation."

Two meetings of Arab regional groupings this month had specifically called for a stronger Arab League, he said.

These were the summit in Libya of the five-nation Arab Maghreb Union and the meeting in Damascus of eight countries to agree on Egyptian and Syrian participation in a post-war peacekeeping force for the Gulf.

Some of the "losers" have already started making overtures to the "winners," who emerged from the war diplomatically and militarily stronger.

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## Iran makes up with Riyadh, paves way for bigger Gulf role

By Mohammad Zargham  
Reuters

NICOSIA — Iran has settled its major differences with Saudi Arabia, completing a flurry of diplomatic fence-mending in the Gulf and laying claim to a greater role in the region following the end of the Gulf war.

But President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who kept Iran neutral throughout the crisis over Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, may have laid himself open to charges from hardline opponents that he is moving too close to friends of the United States.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said after talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal in Muscat on Sunday that a formal declaration on resumption of ties would be issued in 48 hours.

Gulf-based diplomats said Tehran and Riyadh had reached agreement on a deal to end Iran's boycott of the annual hajj, Muslim pilgrimage, allowing about 100,000 Iranians to go to Mecca in May for the first time in four years.

The normalisation of ties with Riyadh follows Tehran's establishment of diplomatic relations with Britain, Tunisia, Mauritania, Iraq and Jordan in the seven months since Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia broke diplomatic relations with Iran in April 1988, accusing it of hostile acts nine months after 400 people, most of them Iranian pilgrims, died in clashes with Saudi police near Islam's holiest shrine in Mecca.

Basic differences still divide Iran's Shi'ite Muslim leaders and the conservative Sunni Muslim rulers in Saudi Arabia who invited several hundred thousands U.S. troops to defend their kingdom after Iraq invaded neighbouring Kuwait last August.

Both countries claim leadership of the world's one billion Muslims.

Iran's late supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini said before his death in 1989 that even if he one day forgave Iraq's Saddam Hussein, who fought Iran for eight years, he would never forgive Saudi King Fahd, who was likened to "governor of Alabama."

Tehran newspapers quoted radical parliament deputy Ebrahim Asgharzadeh as saying in a meeting at Tehran University that resuming ties with Riyadh and Egypt would hurt Iran's interests.

A leading hardline magazine said the statement by Saudi Arabia and its Arab partners to the Gulf Cooperation Council that Iran should join future regional security arrangements was a U.S.-inspired scheme to contain Iran.

Iraq's defeat.

Iran, despite remaining neutral in the Gulf crisis, criticised Saudi Arabia for bringing American and other western forces to the region. It continues to demand the withdrawal of the western troops.

Iran's neutrality won praise in the West, including signals from its arch-enemy Washington that it wants to discuss improving relations broken a decade ago.

But Iranian hardliners opposed to Rafsanjani's pragmatic diplomacy have kept up their attacks on Saudi Arabia and King Fahd, who was likened to "governor of Alabama."

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## LETTERS

### Lingering questions

To the Editor:

AS a doctor who is concerned about saving lives, I was of course distressed about the possibility of the use of weapons of mass destruction during the Gulf war, but I was particularly alarmed by the possible use of biological weapons and the effects it could have on people.

Perhaps though the most mindboggling issue to me was when the United States bombed water, sanitation and sewage facilities creating alarm over the prospects of spreading epidemics and threatening the lives of 18 million people, with cholera, typhoid, diarrhoea, meningitis and other water borne diseases, not to forget its rapid spreading effects into neighbouring countries. I would like the UNICEF and WHO organisations to please

clarify how they would qualify and define the bombing and destruction of water and sanitation sewage networks, in Iraq, that are so essential in containing and eliminating spreading infectious diseases and viruses. Is not what happened in Iraq a means of biological warfare? Was the USA security so much endangered by Iraq to justify their horrific action to be taken by the boldest and strongest nation in the world? How could it be explained to a mother whose babies have just died with diarrhoea that bombing the sewage system in Baghdad was a priority in winning the war in Kuwait and that Bush is not against the Iraqi people and he is an honourable man?

Jameid Mahmoud, M.D.,  
Amman.



# Jordan Muslim fundamentalists losing popularity

By Rana Sabbagh  
Reuter

AMMAN — Jordan's Muslim Fundamentalists appear to be losing popularity after joining the government three months ago.

They have been hurt by not delivering on pledges to ease economic problems and launch jihad to help Iraq.

A resident of a Palestinian refugee camp in Amman said that in the three weeks since the Gulf war ended sympathy for the Muslim Brotherhood had declined rapidly — a trend which officials and politicians confirm but the organisation itself disputes.

"They had almost 100 per cent support, now it is no more than 65 per cent because they did not do much of what they promised us," the Palestinian said.

"Their popularity is going downhill," said Jalal Mohamed, a translator at a relief agency and a devout Muslim. "Which of their promises in parliament or in the government they have delivered? They are losing credibility."

The Brotherhood's candidate lost badly to a secular nationalist in Jordan's bar association elections last week — unlike other elections in the past two years in which it won

sweeping victories against left and liberal opponents.

Social and religious conservatism has long been the rule in Jordan but the Kingdom has also projected an air of relative tolerance, liberalism and openness to the outside world.

The Brotherhood came to political favour over the past two years against a background of deepening economic problems in Jordan, worsened by the Gulf crisis.

A leading political analyst said the party might be able to weather declining popularity, saying: "They remain the best organised and the biggest political group in Jordan. A comeback cannot be ruled out."

A spokesman for the Brotherhood group in parliament — the biggest single bloc — said there was no proof their popularity had eroded and it was unfair to judge their role in government in such a short period.

"We cannot rule out that the popularity of a political group can go up or down. But when we speak of the popularity of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, we speak with complete confidence," he said.

"People emerged thwarted from the Gulf war, this was reflected in a decline of interest in politics."

The Brotherhood's next test will be when Jordan takes fresh

steps toward democracy by opening its political system to other parties under a national charter drafted under royal decree.

The government banned all parties in 1957 but allowed the Brotherhood, banned or restricted in many other Arab countries, to operate to balance the effect of leftists.

It has not lifted the ban but allowed known leftist party members to run in the November 1989 parliamentary elections, the first in two decades.

The Brotherhood made huge gains in those elections on promises that Islam held the answers to Jordan's economic, social and political ills. A year later, Abdul Latif Arabiyat was elected the first Brotherhood House speaker.

Five Brotherhood members later joined the government, the first to become ministers since Jordan was created in 1921. They took the portfolios of Islamic affairs, education, social development, agriculture and health.

Former sympathisers said what probably harmed the group most was its assertion that divine providence would ensure Iraq would win the Gulf war — in which U.S.-led western and Arab forces defeated the Iraqi army and drove it from Kuwait.

"They promised their followers Iraq would win the war, they called on them to launch jihad to help Baghdad fight a crusade by infidels against Muslims and to liberate Palestine," said a Jordanian politician. "But none of that came true."

Their spokesman rejected this criticism, saying talk of victory against the allies should not have been taken literally.

"An Islamic understanding of victory is not decided by the results of one battle but by the end result. It is enough that this war has unmasked the face of America... and proved that it is enemy number one of the world's nations."

The Brotherhood, which insists on the return of all Palestine to the Palestinians, joined a government whose policy on the Arab-Israeli conflict has been based on United Nations resolutions demanding an exchange of land for peace.

Some government sources said entering the cabinet, a controversial move within the Brotherhood, was hypocritical when they opposed the resolutions.

The Brotherhood spokesman said his group would maintain a tough stand on Middle East peace.

"We believe the Brotherhood will not stay a day longer

if the government implemented its policy and recognised the Jewish entity's right to exist on the land of Palestine," he said.

The Brotherhood's opponents criticise it for focusing on moral issues instead of economic problems.

Brotherhood deputies want Jordan to follow Islamic Sharia law, to ban interest, which they regard as usury, and to tighten moral standards. But they say they will rely on persuasion, not force.

They have won a ban on alcohol on Royal Jordanian flights to several Arab and Muslim capitals and forced the state-controlled media to ensure they respect Islamic perceptions of morality.

Parliament passed a law preventing women inheriting the same amount of land as their brothers, sweeping away property rights in place since the Ottoman empire.

Now, Brotherhood members are working on a law to ban alcohol in Jordan though few officials believe they will succeed.

Their scattered liberal opponents in Parliament joined together last week and banned them from passing laws that would have forced all banks to stop using interest.

## Still early to return to emirate: Fate of Kuwait expatriates unclear

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and various international agencies and organisations remain in close touch over efforts to ensure the eventual return to Kuwait of Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates who left the emirate during the Gulf crisis, but possess valid documents for residence there. However, the situation in Kuwait remains unclear and reports of vindictive mistreatment of the expatriates remaining in the emirate have further clouded the picture, they say.

"The Jordanian government has been in touch with the concerned international organisations over the fate of Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates," said a senior official. "The situation in Kuwait is under close study, but there is no immediate possibility of ensuring that the expatriates are allowed to return," he said.

An international relief agency official noted that the Kuwaiti authorities were not allowing the immediate return of any big number of Kuwaiti citizens who had fled and sought shelter in Arab and European countries. Against this backdrop, "it is wishful thinking that expatriates — except those whose services are most essentially needed — would be allowed to return immediately," the official said.

The official noted that basic services such as water and power supply and proper distribution of food have not yet been organised in Kuwait. "It would take several months before living conditions could be called bearable there," he added.

No precise number is available on Jordanians and Jordanian document-holders who have left Kuwait and are now in the Kingdom. Estimates range from 170,000 to 400,000. Many of them have lived in Kuwait for decades

and have their savings frozen in Kuwaiti banks.

There are three categories of Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates: Those who hold regular five-year Jordanian passports i.e. Jordanian citizens, some of whom are of West Bank and Gaza origin; West Bankers who Gazans who hold two-year Jordanian passports, which only serve as documents to facilitate their travel outside the Israeli-occupied territories; Gazans who hold Egyptian laissez passer and find it difficult to return to the occupied strip through Egypt and are denied entry across the River Jordan by the occupation authorities.

At least two international agencies have contacted the Kuwaiti authorities over the issue of return of expatriates. But none of them has received any response, sources said.

"At this point it is understandable that the Kuwaiti authorities are unable to set any timeframe for the return of expatriates," noted a senior international agency official. "But there cannot be any mistaking the fact that the issue has turned political," he said referring to reports of mistreatment of Jordanians and Palestinians by Kuwaiti elements for what is perceived as their support for Iraq and collaboration with the Iraqis during the seven-month occupation of the emirate.

While most activities of the international agencies in Amman were so far devoted to handling the problems of people leaving Iraq and Kuwait, said the official, "the focus is now shifting to political undercurrents and this is an area where international agencies can accomplish very little except through gentle persuasion."

"It will mostly depend on the parties directly involved and how the situation develops," the official asserted.

"International laws and norms fade into the background and issues of political relations between two sovereign states," he noted.

Ironically, some governments have contacted the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) with requests to arrange the transportation back to Kuwait of their nationals who left the emirate after the Iraqi invasion in August. "It is a totally different kind of situation," noted Alfred Kottke, chief of the IOM mission in Amman. "It was an emergency when hundreds of thousands of people left Kuwait in the middle of the crisis and international agencies had to step in with help," he noted. "Now, their return has to be arranged by their respective employers in line with the concerned laws and regulations. If the IOM could help in any way we are willing to do so."

The IOM, an inter-governmental agency which has mainly been concentrating on movement of people from Eastern Europe to the West and the flow of "boat people" from Vietnam as well as migration from areas of conflict, has handled the return home through Jordan of over 160,000 evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait since August.

The Kuwait government has been sending conflicting signals over its intentions over the expatriate community which numbered about 1.2 million before the Iraqi invasion. While some officials have said that everyone who possessed a valid document to stay in Kuwait would be allowed to return and resume work, others have said that the emirate has adopted a very selective approach to the issue and might give preference to nationals of those countries which are members of the anti-Iraq coalition.

## Iraqi

(Continued from page 1)

tion to collect arms, however, was not only a factor that prevented or delayed mass protests in Baghdad — which is the main centre for Iraqi intellectuals and veteran politicians.

Many Iraqis interviewed seemed to be taken aback by the violent rebellion in the south and the north. If they were thinking of a revolution, at least the intellectuals, they could not identify with predominantly Shiite dissidents in the south and the Kurdish rebels in the north.

"The violence in the south and the north provided (President) Saddam with the opportunity to elicit his people's support against sectarian dissent and foreign intervention while it gave the Iraqis in Baghdad a chance to seriously reflect on the future instead of acting upon impulse," said the university professor interviewed by the Jordan Times.

In the words of a Baathist activist, the feat of Shiite sectarian violence had temporarily brought the Sunnis and the Baathists together — therefore the regime and the president appeared to be the only safety valve for the immediate future.

But officials in the government concede that the outcome of the war has widened the Gulf between the leadership and the people and that it would be extremely difficult to restore the leadership's credibility.

The leadership has so far benefitted from the fact the opposition, which is based abroad, does not have the needed credibility to lead the Iraqis due to its foreign links, Iranian connections and lack of organisational grassroots structure in the country.

"We know that the people would prefer a nationalist government to one with foreign links but we cannot take this for granted if frustration and anger reached the point of explosion. For if people are driven to despair they will follow any leader who might deliver and save them from their difficult living conditions," commented a well placed Baathist party member.

Officials are also aware that the war pushed to the surface all of the shortcomings of the regime and its record of repression. "It is (President) Saddam's fault. He did not give a breathing space and instead he has alienated many decent and qualified intellectuals," said an Iraqi artist.

But the most striking aspect of criticism of President Saddam is that many — including those who loved and loathed him alike before the war — say that their bitterness was mostly brought about by the defeat and that he could have sustained and increased his support among them if he had won.

Iraqi opponents of the president argue that the most catastrophic outcome of the war was that the U.S. had achieved its goal of destroying and weakening Iraq.

"Saddam had made us feel proud of being Iraqis after the Iraqi-Iranian war and when he emerged as the most influential leader in the Arab World," said a physician. "Why he

allowed the U.S. and others to lure us into the Kuwaiti trap and humiliate us like that, I do not really know," the physician added.

Although many Iraqis in Baghdad, who were interviewed before the war had said that they did not support the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, many were arguing now that President Saddam should have either withdrawn long before the Jan. 15 deadline or continued the fight until the end.

What torments many in Baghdad is that the leadership, including President Saddam, has not said a word to explain the decision to withdraw, giving rise to speculation and rumours about treachery among the president's aides and other similar stories.

A soldier interviewed after he came back to Baghdad from Kuwait said the troops' morale was completely shaken once soldiers heard that the president had accepted the Soviet peace initiative which involved an Iraqi withdrawal.

"I and others felt that that if he was withdrawing anyhow why should we die here," the young soldier said. "But it would have been even better if he had ordered an immediate pullout then and not after the beginning of the ground assault... we were already confused," the soldier added.

Iraqi officials said that the leadership believed it could withdraw the troops and equipment safely into Iraqi territories. They subsequently felt tricked by the allied forces which attacked the withdrawing troops both in Kuwait and inside Iraqi territory. The officials' contentions implied that there were some sort of promises not to attack the withdrawing troops, but these could not be substantiated. They also accused Iran of stabbing Iraq in the back by sending armed infiltrators into Iraq's south to

instigate a rebellion seizing the opportunity of the allied forces' incursion into Iraqi territory.

But, as long as the riddle of the withdrawal remains unsolved, many Iraqis feel let down by the leadership and promises for democratisation — unless accompanied by swift practical measures — would not be enough to heal the wounds of the injured pride of a historically struggling nation.

## Prince

(Continued from page 1)

the Jordanian side by His Majesty King Hussein's Political Adviser Adnan Abu Odeh and the Jordanian ambassador to Canada.

The Crown Prince also met with several members of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Canadian parliament.

## Jordan aid

(Continued from page 1)

going to succeed in fending it off (the aid-cessation movement) unless we have a pretty clear-cut statement" from the administration explaining why it is essential to continue that aid.

Mr. Kelly assured the chairman that his office could provide such a letter. One congressman said he wanted to see such a letter published in his hometown newspaper in order to assuage constituents when he votes to let the aid continue.

The administration believes that Jordan is critical in that region, Mr. Kelly said. "It's critical politically, it's critical geographically, it's critical sociologically. It's critical because of the water problem," Mr. Kelly said. "Any look at the map," he explained, "demonstrates why any comprehensive settlement in the Middle East has got to address and involve Jordan. Jordan

is critical because of the influence that King Hussein and the government have over Palestinians, broadly, and there may be a role for Jordan — may be a role — we're not sure at this juncture," Mr. Kelly called U.S. military and economic assistance to the Middle East "significant tools" in U.S. efforts to "bring stability to the region," and he said such policy was validated during the Gulf war.

Asked if the United States was "retaliating" against other countries, such as Yemen, which had not supported the coalition in the Gulf crisis by cutting assistance, Mr. Kelly said the United States was simply reflecting where U.S. priorities lie now.

According to Mr. Kelly, there will be no U.S. security assistance for 1992 in the budget for Yemen, and the United States plans to reduce developmental assistance to that country.

Mr. Kelly said the United States hopes that Yemen will "reexamine its positions and move in a direction that would allow development of a more cooperative relationship."

## attack

(Continued from page 1)

been banned from entering central Israel for eight weeks after the Jan. 17 start of the Gulf war. The move was intended to prevent violence by pro-Iraqi Palestinians.

Last Sunday, police began to allow Palestinian workers with special permits to return to Tel Aviv and Haifa.

Israeli troops on patrol near the ceasefire line in the occupied West Bank shot and killed two infiltrators during a pre-dawn fire fight Friday, the military command said.

It said the clash occurred at about 3 a.m. (0100 GMT) in the northern part of the Jordan Valley, near a Jewish settlement.

## Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

gunmen. Officials and diplomats in Kuwait say government is taking action to curb excesses against Palestinians by troops and militiamen hunting suspected collaborators.

The United States has told Kuwait it must observe internationally accepted standards of human rights and should build a more open society.

Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly said Wednesday Washington had told Kuwaiti authorities not to take reprisals against those it believed collaborated with Iraq during its seven-month occupation of the emirate.

In Amman, a PLO official warned this week of revenge if the killing of Palestinians in Kuwait continued and urged the world to protect them.

"We urge the international humanitarian organisations and all countries concerned with finding a just peace to stop these slaughters in Kuwait," Mobammad Milhem, a member of the PLO executive, told Reuters.

"Their continuation will definitely lead to revenge and retaliation and start a vicious circle," he said.

## Iraqi jet

(Continued from page 1)

members of the Iraqi opposition move to northern Iraq to study the new development and discuss the possibility of forming a provisional government," he said in a statement released by his London office.

A spokesman for the Islamic Daw'a Party told Reuters in Damascus that the Republican Guards were stopping people from outside entering Baghdad.

"The (state of) siege came after the regime got information about a possible military coup whose organisers were not known," he claimed. "Units of the Republican Guard which protect Saddam have been placed around Baghdad and only vehicles of the Republican Guards are being allowed to enter the city."

Baghdad Radio broadcast normal programmes Friday.

Hoshyar Zebari, a spokesman for the KDP, said any provisional government would include members of the various opposition factions. He said Mr. Barzani issued his invitation to all the leaders of the joint action committee, a coalition of Iraqi opposition factions formed last December.

In heavy fighting near Mosul, Kurdish guerrillas said they overran an Iraqi military base, killing

dozens of defenders, taking 500 Iraqi soldiers prisoners and capturing a dozen tanks, armoured personnel carriers and all the military equipment on the base.

## Sanctions

(Continued from page 1)

sion. In another development at the United Nations, the United States has proposed that Iraq agree to destroy its nuclear weapons-grade materials and ballistic missiles, as well as chemical and biological weapons.

U.S. officials stressed that Security Council members were still negotiating the fine points of the proposed resolution, which effectively would set the requirements for Iraq to gain a permanent ceasefire.

Mr. Ahtisaari warned that Iraq faced an "imminent catastrophe" of epidemics and famine if food, fuel and other equipment was not sent immediately.

The report by Mr. Ahtisaari of Finland, who had just completed a mission to Iraq, called on the international community help Iraq in restoring agriculture, water, sanitation and health needs.

"It is unmistakable that the Iraqi people may soon face a further imminent catastrophe, which could include epidemic and

famine, if massive life-supporting needs are not rapidly met," Mr. Ahtisaari said in the report.

## Kuwaitis

(Continued from page 1)

At 2, met the first batch at the airport. Some of the Kuwaitis returned home only to be incarcerated again by the military.

Only 150 Kuwaiti citizens arrived in Kuwait by late afternoon to the bappy cries of their wives and kisses of their children, were allowed to return home to their families.

The rest, an estimated 300 men, were taken to a military camp outside Kuwait City because, although they served in Kuwait's security forces, they were not Kuwaiti citizens, according to Yusuf Al Khawari, an official at Kuwait's ministry of justice.

Mr. Khawari, who is involved in P.O.Ws effort, said the men would undergo further identity checks and then be given to their army, police or national guard units.

But other Kuwaiti officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said they believed the men would be held and then deported in line with a government desire to decrease the number of foreigners in the country.

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## Sports

# Marseille drawn against Spartak Moscow in European Cup

GENEVA (R) — Marseille, who knocked out double champions AC Milan this week, were drawn against Soviet Union side Spartak Moscow in the semifinals of the European Cup Friday.

Marseille, bidding to become the first French club to win a European soccer trophy, travel to Moscow for the first leg on April 10 against the side who crushed Real Madrid in Spain Wednesday.

In the other semifinal, Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich are at home in the first leg to Red Star Belgrade of Yugoslavia, whose match in eastern Germany this week was abandoned because of crowd violence.

Red Star beat East German champions Dynamo Dresden in the quarter-finals, but their second leg match Wednesday was called off in the 48th minute as riot police used a water cannon to clear fans from the front of the terraces.

The Yugoslavs, 3-0 winners in the first leg, were leading 2-1 when fans throwing cans, stones and other missiles on to the pitch forced the referee to stop the match.

The second leg matches are on April 24.

Marseille official Jean-Louis Levrault said: "We are not too pleased with the draw and having to travel to the Soviet Union."

"Spartak Moscow cannot be underestimated after they put out hot favourites Real Madrid."

The European Cup Winners' Cup draw paired Manchester Un-

ited with Legia Warsaw of Poland, offering the prospect of an English club reaching a final in their first season back in Europe after a five-year exile.

United, who beat Montpellier 2-0 in France Tuesday to reach the semifinals, were kept away from Spanish and Italian giants Barcelona and Juventus.

Manchester United secretary Kenneth Marett, whose side travel to Poland for the first leg, said: "This could be a good omen for us."

"We played a Polish club, Gornik, in 1968, the year we won the European Cup."

Legia surprised Poland's soccer critics with their 3-2 quarter-final triumph over Cup Winners' Cup holders and Italian league leaders Sampdoria, drawing 2-2 in Genoa Wednesday.

UEFA Cup holders Juventus, overwhelming victors against Liege of Belgium in the last round, play the Spanish League leaders in Barcelona in the first leg in a meeting many observers would have preferred reserved for the final.

The UEFA Cup could see an all-Italian final for the second successive year after Roma and Internazionale were kept apart in the semifinals.

Roma play Brondby, the first Danish side to reach the last four of a European club competition, with the first leg in Denmark.

Brondby have conceded only two goals in their eight cup ties, accounting for top German side Eintracht Frankfurt and this

week eliminating Torpedo Moscow on penalties.

Inter Milan, challenging Sampdoria for the Italian title, travel to Portugal for a first leg against Sporting Lisbon, who put out another Italian side, Bologna, in the previous round.

Inter accounted for the fourth Italian club in the UEFA Cup, Atalanta, in their quarter-final.

Last season Juventus beat Fiorentina in the final.

The winners of the Sporting-Internazionale tie will have home advantage in the first leg of this season's two-leg final on May 8.

Marseille President Bernard Tapie said his main concern about playing the first leg in Moscow was that Brazilian sweeper Carlos Mozer would be suspended after receiving a second yellow card Wednesday against Milan.

"We will come under a lot of pressure in the first match," he said, speaking in Marseille. "I would rather have played the first leg at home."

"It's not going to be easy. Spartak have had the best run in the competition, beating Napoli and Real Madrid."

"We will be tired when we meet them but they will be fresh because their season has only just started."

The European Cup looks set to be played in a new league format from the quarter-final stage next season after UEFA's competition committee agreed Friday to changes on a trial basis.

The eight teams remaining in

the quarter-finals would be drawn by lots into two groups, playing each other home and away, with the winners qualifying for the final.

Fredy Rumo, chairman of UEFA's clubs competition committee, said the final decision would be taken at the executive committee meeting in London on April 19.

Gerd Aigner, general secretary of UEFA, said Wednesday suggestions that all three competitions be played in groups from the start were "totally unrealistic."

If the trial period for the European Cup is successful a similar league format could be introduced for the Cup Winners' Cup and UEFA Cup.

Meanwhile, Albania failed Friday to persuade the UEFA to allow them to postpone their European championship qualifier against France this month.

A UEFA spokesman said they had rejected Albania's appeal against Thursday's decision to order them to play the game in Paris on March 30 or risk a 3-0 forfeit defeat.

Several Albanian players, escaping political turmoil at home, have gone abroad and the national federation cited team problems as the reason for wanting to postpone the Group 1 qualifier and an under-21 match in Angers on March 29.

France leads the group with maximum points from four matches while Albania have lost all their qualifiers.

# Graf fails again Sabatini and Edberg score wins in Players Championships

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (AP) — Gabriela Sabatini gave Steffi Graf a six-game head start and still won.

In a stunning comeback Thursday, Sabatini beat her archrival 6-6, 7-6 (8-6), 6-1 to move into the finals of the International Players Championships.

The victory was Sabatini's first after losing an opening set 6-0. "I think it's a great effort," she said. "It has much to do with my mental toughness."

After beating Graf for the fourth consecutive time and the second time in 11 days, Sabatini is just one victory away from her third tournament title this year.

"She can't play much better than she did in the second and third set," Graf said. "She won it,

and I also lost the match in the second set."

Graf's defeat ensured that Monica Seles will remain no. 1 next week. Seles, replaced Graf at the top of the rankings last week.

Sabatini, 19-1 this year, will meet the Fernandez-Seles winner Saturday.

Top-ranked Stefan Edberg advanced to the men's semifinals by beating Emilio Sanchez 6-2, 7-6 (8-6). Edberg overcame four set points in the second set.

The Swede's opponent Friday will be U.S. David Wheaton, who served 10 aces as he rallied to beat Cristiano Caratti 6-7 (7-9), 6-2, 6-0. Wheaton, ranked no. 16, lost his opening match in his four previous tournaments this year.

Jim Courier and Richey Reneberg will play in the other semifinal Friday.

Sabatini won just eight points in the 23-minute first set against Graf, and only two points on her serve.

"She was hitting the ball very well, and I wasn't doing much," Sabatini said. "After the first set, I tried to hit it a little deeper and get into the match."

Graf dodged two set points before reaching 6-6 in the second set. In the tiebreaker, she fell behind 1-0 and overcame two more set points to pull even at 6-6, which left her just two points from the match. But the German netted a backhand and then a forehand to give Sabatini the set.

"I had a lot of chances in the second set," Graf said. "Once I lost it, I couldn't get a ball in play the rest of the match."

Sabatini was nearly flawless in the final set, and even an overrule on an important point didn't help Graf. Trailing 30-40 on her serve, Graf hit a forehand that the linesman called long. The chair



Stefan Edberg

umpire ordered a replay, but Graf then double-faulted to give Sabatini the game and a 5-0 lead.

Sabatini's recent winning streak against her rival includes a straight-set victory in the finals of the Virginia Slims of Florida on March 10.

"Probably I have more things I can do on the court," than Graf, Sabatini said. "That's why I feel so comfortable playing. I'm starting to show everything I have."

Sabatini still trails Graf, 20-8. Graf, who finished first in 40 tournaments last year, has yet to win a title through four events in 1991. Thursday's loss broke her 18-match victory streak in the Key Biscayne tournament, which she won in 1987 and 1988.

# South Africa woos IOC for Olympic readmission

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa lays out the red carpet Saturday for the arrival of a top Olympic delegation which will decide whether the country has earned its place back in the international sporting family.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is sending its watchdog Commission on Apartheid to see if South African political reform has gone far enough to welcome the Springboks from decades of isolation.

"This is the most important sports delegation to come to South Africa," said the pro-government Beeld newspaper.

The day of recognition has dawned. South Africa deserves this. The world realises that South African sports people are yearning for acknowledgment for what was attained in the many years of isolation and frustration," it added.

If all goes well during the visit — and most officials are optimistic — the South African flag has high chances of being raised at the 1992 summer games in Barcelona, which begin in July, or even at the Winter Olympics in Albertville, France in February.

During their five-day mission, the IOC delegation will meet the country's five main sports organisations, representing all shades of political opinion.

The delegation, headed by Senegalese judge and IOC Vice-President Keba Mbaye, will also meet President F.W. de Klerk, whose pledges to scrap apartheid have rekindled South Africa's chances of seeing the Olympic flame first hand.

IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch has already indicated South Africa could lose its pariah status if, as expected, de Klerk's reforms continue at their present pace.

South Africa's greatest reason for cheer is the dramatic conver-

sion of Sam Ramsamy, the veteran anti-apartheid sports campaigner, who has come home from exile to champion the cause of Olympic readmission.

"I think there will be a South African presence in Barcelona. It seems highly probable," Ramsamy said.

With such words from the anti-apartheid lobby, South Africa's white-dominated establishment can hardly contain their eagerness to prove their commitment to non-racism.

The IOC delegation will report back at an IOC executive meeting in Barcelona in April before the delegation's findings are considered by a full IOC session.

South Africa has been banished from the Olympic movement since 1970 because of its apartheid policies and last competed, with an all-white team, in the 1960 Rome Olympics.

Key to readmission is the unification of the country's five representative sports movements, formerly bitter rivals, into one non-racial organisation.

They have already taken the first step to settling their differences by forming the Interim National Olympic Committee of South Africa, headed by Ramsamy.

Four of the bodies express optimism about the IOC visit, but one small anti-apartheid group, the South African Congress on Sport (SACOS), pours cold water over the fever-pitch expectations of the others.

SACOS President Joe Ebrahim said the delegation's trip was premature and more needed to be done to dismantle apartheid before international links were restored.

"The situation still doesn't meet the requirements of the oppressed's political organisations," he said.

# United seeks to reproduce European form in league

LONDON (R) — Manchester United return to domestic action after their European triumph against Montpellier hoping to reproduce the winning touch in the English League Saturday.

United, at home to Luton, have not won a first division game for more than two months, with their last victory coming against Sunderland on Jan. 12.

They will be without midfielder Paul Ince, who suffered a badly gashed thigh in United's 2-0 Cup Winners' Cup win at French club Montpellier Tuesday.

Ince's injury further weakens a midfield already missing Neil Webb, who has cracked ribs, but manager Alex Ferguson is confident of hearing Luton, who have lost their last six games against United and conceded 15 goals in the process.

League leaders Arsenal travel to mid-table Norwich without striker Paul Merson, who damaged ankle ligaments in Wednesday's 1-1 draw with Nottingham Forest.

But manager George Graham, whose side are a point ahead of second-placed Liverpool, has

both Swedish international Anders Limpar and perry Groves fit again.

After dropping a point at home for only the third time this season, Graham is anxious for Arsenal to take three points off Norwich, especially with Liverpool visiting bottom club Derby.

Derby have won only twice at home this season, and Liverpool appear to have recovered their form following the resignation of Manager Kenny Dalglish, with two successive victories.

Leeds United and Crystal Palace, fourth and third respectively, clash at Elland Road in a match which could determine who wins a place in next season's UEFA Cup.

If Liverpool snatch the title and Arsenal win the F.A. Cup, or Liverpool fail to be readmitted to Europe, the team finishing third will represent England in the UEFA Cup.

Battle-weary Leeds, who have won only two of their last six league games, have delayed naming their squad after a tough mid-week tie against Everton in a minor cup competition.

# Waddle doubtful for England match against Ireland

GENEVA (R) — England winger Chris Waddle is doubtful for next week's European Championship qualifier against Ireland after suffering concussion in Marseille's European Cup tie against AC Milan, a club official said Friday.

Marseille official Jean-Louis Levrault, speaking in Geneva after the draw for the

European Cup semifinal, said Waddle, who scored the winner against Milan Wednesday, was leaving hospital Friday. "He will have to rest for about 10 days and I would say it would be virtually impossible for him to play for England next week," said Levrault.

# France and Poland win Olympic shooting team slots

CHINO, California (AP) — Scott Swinney won a silver medal for the United States and France won two team slots for the 1992 Olympics in the 1991 World Cup USA International Shooting Competition.

The Soviet Union remained ahead in the medal tally with nine after winning three more bronze medal Thursday. The Americans have three medals.

Swinney took second in the 10-metre running target competition, which is shot at a moving target with .177-caliber, scoped air rifles. The 1988 Olympian finished with 660 points, 11 behind winner Atilla Solti of Hungary.

gary, his country's only representative at the event.

Grenadi Avramenko of the Soviet Union finished third with 659.

Swinney's silver medal was his first in a World Cup event. He earned an Olympic team slot for the United States during the World Shooting Championships last year. Slots are awarded to the top five finishers who have not already earned Olympic places for their country.

France won a team slot in the running target with a fifth-place finish for Jean-Luc Tricoire. Solti had already earned an Olympic team slot for his country.

# Tyson and Ruddock may fight again this summer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Mike Tyson and Donovan "Razor" Ruddock may be getting the rematch both say they want.

A spokesman for the Mirage Hotel said Thursday that a rematch between the top two heavyweight contenders may come before a planned fight pitting Tyson against Renaldo Snipes.

"We're looking into the possibility of a rematch this summer," spokesman Alan Feldman said. "It's fair to say the public wants to see these two guys again."

Feldman said promoter Don King and Ruddock's promoter, Murad Mohammad, are negotiating the details of a second fight, and said an announcement could come next week.

Tyson defeated Ruddock Monday when referee Richard Steele

decided to stop the fight at 2:22 of the seventh round following a barrage of Tyson punches.

The controversial decision prompted a melee in the ring, and had both fighters and promoters clamouring afterward for a rematch.

"There are a number of questions remaining from that fight," Feldman said.

King had planned to match Tyson against Snipes at the Las Vegas resort on June 8, but a rematch with Ruddock would clearly be more attractive fight.

Tyson-Snipes fight would have to be paired with a major fight to make it attractive enough to sell tickets at the hotel's 15,500-seat arena, and to entice viewers to order it on pay-per-view television.

# Peanuts



# Andy Capp



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The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
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3 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ Pass  
What do you bid now?
- Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
+KQ1076 -7 -A84 +AK95  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass  
What do you bid now?
- Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
+KQ1076 -92 -A84 +AK95  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass  
What action do you take?
- Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
+AKQ10952 -K6 -J5 +Q7  
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?
- Q.6—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:  
+KQ1076 -7 -A84 +AK95  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass  
What do you bid now?

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**JUMBLE** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME  
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DREEL  
HOOT  
AGCUTH  
RESTUM

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: THE "EGG" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: LYING COVEY GIGOLO DONKEY  
Answer: What the hen did with the rooster — "EGGED" HIM ON

**THE Daily Crossword** by Louis Sabn

ACROSS  
1. A certain flight of steps  
10. Go different way  
14. Split  
15. Tiber city  
16. Lab medium  
17. Gentry or  
18. Land mass  
19. Zip to Zapala  
20. Moines  
21. Reel's sequel-sequel  
24. Yonder  
26. Red head of  
27. Wemhar von  
28. Mare site  
31. Expresses contempt  
32. Colorful  
37. Protected  
38. 40A passenger  
39. Lamb  
40. Gotham City  
41. slayer  
42. In a zany way  
43. Minuscule  
44. Paparwork  
45. Olseconert  
46. Bamboo eater  
47. Trudeau and  
48. Young  
49. Bottom line  
50. Sequoia  
51. Pastor's mother  
52. Championship  
53. Sea bird  
54. Strip  
55. Acres  
56. Verdugo  
57. Pair  
58. Choice cheese  
59. Showed anew  
60. Cluster fruit  
61. Stockings  
62. Beirut bligw  
63. Hatched  
64. horses  
65. Velvetlike  
66. Repeatedly  
67. Circle lines  
68. Practice  
69. Samovar  
70. A Waugh  
71. Seraglio  
72. Bartok  
73. With great style  
74. Brigitte's friend  
75. Lane target  
76. Mint  
77. Vandyke a.g.  
78. Vandyke a.g.  
79. Works by 340  
80. Letter  
81. Diamond stat  
82. HRE name  
83. Gr. flask  
84. Corrupt  
85. Original  
86. Arm bone  
87. Stingy  
88. de France

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:  
UPAL PAKERS ACITY  
CURE ROODE COOU  
ASTA REMOR COTE  
BAPPHOQUEBEE  
ALSA LOCE  
LEEDS CLOUE BAA  
BARRISDOORENLOO  
SYD LASEN LULA  
LEITO BAGEE  
SOAD ALA  
BOB COMFANION  
JOVE ROOPY OLOO  
OVER RILLIE OLOO  
REET ENTER ROAD



## China's oil exports to continue to drop

BEIJING (R) — China has declared its support for an OPEC decision to cut crude oil production from April and said its own oil exports would continue to fall this year.

Official newspapers quoted Zheng Dunxun, general manager of China Chemicals Import and Export Corporation, as saying oil producers and consumers would all benefit by keeping prices at a "reasonable" level.

China welcomed OPEC's decision to cut its crude oil output by an overall five per cent in the second quarter to protect oil prices, Zheng said, quoted by the People's Daily.

China, which is not a member of OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries), is a major oil producer but because of domestic needs is a relatively minor exporter.

Apparently referring to widespread doubts in world oil markets that OPEC could hold its agreement together, Zheng said he hoped "all sides involved would jointly take positive measures to protect the stability of the world oil market."

China had a limited capacity to export oil and volumes would continue to fall this year, Zheng added.

His corporation, which holds a monopoly over China's external oil trade, exported 140 million barrels (19.2 million tonnes) of crude oil and oil products last year, he said.

This compares with exports of 225 million barrels (30.8 million tonnes) in 1989, according to previously published official customs statistics.

Western oil experts said the drop in China's oil exports reflected stagnant production and increased domestic demand rather than Beijing's support for OPEC's effort to shore up prices.

China's oil output in 1990 totalled 138.3 million tonnes, up slightly from 137.5 million in 1989.

China could become a net importer of oil by the mid-1990s, according to forecasts published in the official media.

## Britain again cuts interest rates

LONDON (R) — Britain shaved interest rates Friday in government moves to beat an economic recession.

The Bank of England (central bank) cut its money market dealing rates, a signal to commercial banks that it wants their base lending rates down to 12.5 per cent from 13.

It is the third interest rate cut since mid-February.

The British recession is blamed on high interest rates, imposed by the Conservative government more than a year ago to defeat inflation.

But rate of price increases is declining from a peak last autumn of nearly 11 per cent — as retail price index figures due early Saturday were likely to show — with the result that the government is easing up on its credit squeeze.

John Banham, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), called the cut in interest rates "another welcome step in the right direction."

Barclays and Midland were among the first big commercial banks to head the central bank signal and cut their base lending rates to 12.5 per cent.

Conservative Prime Minister John Major stressed in parliament earlier this week that inflation remained his chief enemy, vowing that interest rates would come down only as inflation fell.

But the need to keep the cost of money high threatens Major's electoral prospects.

The opposition Labour Party says 100 firms have been going out of business every day in the recession, which has pushed unemployment above the politically-sensitive two million mark.

Millions of homeowners are also suffering because of the high cost of monthly mortgage (home loan) repayment bills.

Mortgage lender Abbey National said the latest move was "good news for borrowers."

It expected a further cut in base lending rates soon, when it would be able to trim its mortgage rates.

Major, who became prime minister following the resignation of Margaret Thatcher in November, must call an election by mid-1992.

His government has been shaving interest rates in steps of half a percentage point at a time.

A reason for caution in lowering interest rates is that it does not want to stampede hot money out of the pound sterling.

That would upset parities in the European Community (EC) exchange rate mechanism (ERM) currency grid which Britain joined last October.

"The latest cut is justified on domestic monetary conditions and is in line with our commitment to stay within the ERM bands," the treasury said Friday.

## Kuwait may resume oil exports within a year

DUBAI (Agencies) — War-ravaged Kuwait, which once feared it might be two years before it could resume oil exports, now hopes to start exporting within a year, a senior Kuwaiti oil official has said.

He said it would be another month before Kuwait could tell exactly when it would reenter the market.

The official, who returned from Kuwait, was asked about reports that the emirate could not become an exporter for up to two years.

"We hope to start exports much before that," he replied.

"But at least another month is necessary to see which fields can be regrouped, how long it will take to procure field equipment," the official, who declined to be identified, said.

Production from the fields, set ablaze by departing Iraqi forces last month, would first be used to feed the emirate's power and water desalination plants.

The official declined to estimate the initial level of exports but said wells from the giant Burgan reservoir would probably come on stream first. Burgan holds some 80 billion of Kuwait's 95 billion barrel reserves.

Kuwait was producing around 1.5 million barrels per day (b/d) of crude before Iraq's August invasion of the emirate and exporting at least 1.1 million b/d.

"Even at the wells not on fire you have to check the casings, valves and other equipment to see if they are safe to produce," the official said.

Pipelines linking the fields to gathering stations and oil-gas separation plants were mostly intact. However oil terminals at Mina Al Ahmedi and Mina Abdallah had suffered war damage during allied raids against Iraqi troops, he said.

More than 500 oil well fires are burning up Kuwait's reserves at a rate of two to six million b/d. Full-scale fire-fighting efforts are yet to start.

Boots and Coots, one of the U.S. fire-fighting companies contracted by the Kuwaiti government, moved equipment to Kuwait last week. Its workers will arrive in the emirate after a stopover in Dubai this week, the official said.

Three other major fire-fighting contractors, including the legendary Red Adair, would follow soon.

The Kuwait Oil Company is lining up sub-contractors needed to cap the burning wells once the fires are out.

It is also moving rigs to Kuwait to drill for water to be used in fighting the fires. Kuwait's Shuaiba port, cleared of mines last week, would be used to shipping in equipment, the Kuwaiti official said.

Meanwhile, a British government official and industry leaders told some 1,200 eager businessmen in London that rebuilding Kuwait won't be the bonanza some contractors had hoped.

The cost of rebuilding Kuwait has been estimated at \$100 billion to \$500 billion.

But the damage is not as bad as feared, and Kuwait's post-war population likely will be two-thirds its previous size, so the country doesn't need to be entirely reconstructed, they said.

Competition among bidders is stiff, and the logistical problems of doing business in Kuwait at the moment are almost insurmountable, they added.

The speakers made their comments at a government-sponsored conference aimed at helping British bidders win contracts in Kuwait.

Kuwaiti Ambassador Ghazi Al Rayes, the first speaker, told the businessmen that his country was "completely destroyed" and he assured them that "The opportunities will be there. It is not three months and finished. It will take five or 10 years to rebuild Kuwait."

But David Douglas Home, director of the investment company Morgan Grenfell and Grenfell and Co. Ltd., said: "There are opportunities but not so much as we had thought."

"Although there was widespread damage and looting, quite a substantial amount of the non-

## Japanese consortium files \$674 m insurance claims on Iran project

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese consortium has announced it had filed insurance claims with the government for losses resulting from the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

The consortium, led by trading house Mitsui and Co. Ltd., asked the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) to pay 93.08 billion yen (\$674 million) for damage to the Iran-Japan Petrochemical Co. project.

MITI, which provides insurance, usually takes two months to assess claims, but will probably take longer on this claim because the amount of money involved is so large, a Mitsui spokesman said.

MITI insurance covers losses caused by wars, coups and bankrupcies on projects in foreign countries.

In February last year, the Mitsui-led consortium ended its partnership in the joint petrochemical project, launched in 1971.

The Japanese group and Iran's National Petrochemical Co. (NPC) had together invested a total of 600 billion yen (\$4.34 billion) in the project.

## Weak prices, rising costs hurt S. African gold mines

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African gold mines, battered by weak bullion prices and rising costs, cut 40,000 jobs over the past year and a similar number were threatened, the South African Chamber of Mines has said.

"A further 40,000 jobs are estimated to be at risk in the current environment," chamber economist Ivor Leibowitz said in a review of the industry.

South Africa is the world's top gold producer. But the profitability of the industry, which employs about 453,000, has sunk to its lowest in real terms since the 1960s, he said.

Nice mines accounting for 13 per cent of national output and employing 78,000 people recorded operating losses in 1990.

The country's mines managed output of 603 tonnes last year after mining 606 tonnes in 1989 by cutting costs and focusing on their richer gold-bearing ores.

But Leibowitz said: "While improving grades provide immediate financial benefits, such a policy may lead to a shortening of the working lives of some mines."

In a separate market review, the chamber said that total Western gold output had jumped 72 per cent in the 1980s while that of South Africa had slipped 10 per cent.

Total Western production is estimated to have risen a further five per cent in 1990 to 1,740 tonnes, but the growth was expected to slow to 2.5 per cent this year.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES				
Thursday, March 21, 1991				
Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	675.0	679.0	French franc	121.3
Pound sterling	1208.6	1215.9	Japanese yen (for 100)	487.8
Deutschemark	412.5	415.0	Dutch guilder	365.9
Swiss franc	478.0	480.9	Swedish crown	112.9
			Italian lira (for 100)	55.4
			Belgian franc (for 10)	200.1
				201.3

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES				
Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.				
One Sterling	1.7920/30	U.S. dollars		
One U.S. dollar	1.1576/81	Canadian dollar		
	1.6380/87	Deutschemark		
	1.8480/90	Dutch guilders		
	1.4075/85	Swiss francs		
	33.65/75	Belgian francs		
	5.5710/60	French francs		
	1219/1220	Italian lire		
	137.35/45	Japanese yen		
	5.9675/25	Swedish crowns		
	6.3750/3800	Norwegian crowns		
	6.2750/2800	Danish crowns		
One ounce of gold	362.90/363.40	U.S. dollars		

## EC launchers drive to make money transfers quicker and cheaper

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Commission has started a drive to slash the cost and increase the speed of the millions of money transfers which banks process each day in the European Community (EC).

"There is widespread recognition of the need for rapid improvement in our systems of payment," Sir Leon Brittan, the EC commissioner in charge of financial services, said in a statement.

Two committees set up by the commission, the EC's executive body, will seek ways of cutting the cost and time taken to transfer money across borders so that millions of individuals and small businesses can do so efficiently, he said.

Bankers, consumers and industry representatives will meet within these groups over coming months to try to agree what improvements are needed.

But the commission said it would make its own proposals if they did not agree on sufficiently wide-reaching reforms.

It said a survey it carried out in 1988 showed that a French bank wanted to charge a firm £25 (\$44) to transfer a £48 (\$85) cheque to a company in Britain.

One quarter of all bank transfers surveyed by the commission took more than 10 days to arrive at the destination in another EC country. Money transfers made at a national level are much faster and cheaper than across borders, it said.

The creation of the groups follows up a commission policy paper last September which called on banks across Europe to make it as easy, fast and cheap to transfer money across the Community as it is within member countries.

## U.S. jobless-benefit claims soar in blow to recovery hopes

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits shot up to an eight-year high of 519,000 in the week ending March 9, the government said Thursday in a report viewed as a blow to hopes for a quick end to the recession.

The Labour Department said initial claims rose by 45,000 from the previous week, hitting the highest level since the 546,000 filed during the first week of January in 1983. That was at the tail end of the last recession, the steep 1981-82 downturn.

Business administration officials and Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan have expressed the hope that a quick end to the Gulf war, by providing a boost to consumer confidence, will help to ensure that the current recession will be short and mild.

However, private economists said Thursday's report on jobless claims was not an encouraging sign.

"This suggests that more people are being laid off and it signifies a continuing weakening of the economy," said Samuel Kahan, chief economist at Fuji Securities Inc. in Chicago.

Kahan cautioned that the initial jobless claims report can be volatile from week to week. But he noted that the four-week average for claims has been moving higher since December.

Paul Getman, senior economist at Regional Financial Associates, said a number of U.S. industries — from airlines to banks to department stores — are still under stress with thousands of layoffs occurring.

He said that some analysts, lured by gains in the stock market, "have declared this recession dead too early. Every month, economists think the job loss picture will turn around and every month it hasn't."

The new jobless claims report was viewed as especially worrisome because it provided one of the first looks at how the economy was performing in March. Some economists said they expected the broader jobless report for the month to take another turn for the worse.

In a further gloomy assessment of the economy, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce said Thursday that its latest survey of 8,390 businesses nationwide found that more businesses were planning to fire workers than to hire them through August of this year.

The number of businesses forecasting that they would have to fire employees rose to 21.7 per cent versus 17.8 per cent expecting to be hiring workers.

The survey also found that 33.9 per cent of the businesses expected their sales would decline

in coming months versus 35.3 per cent forecasting an increase in sales.

This marked a deterioration since the chamber's last survey in September. At that time, 18 per cent of businesses expected to lay off employees and 28 per cent were expecting a sales decline.

"Clearly, business confidence about the future has deteriorated," said Richard Rahn, chief economist for the chamber.

## Syria plans to export 2m tonnes of phosphate

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria plans to export two million tonnes of phosphate in 1991 for sale on international markets, officials said.

They said that more than 237,000 tonnes of phosphate had been exported already this year through the Tartus port.

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**CONCORD**  
**DAN CROYD & WALTER MATTHEW**  
**IN THE COUCH TRIP**  
3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144  
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**FRANTIC**  
12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

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Play  
"No For Despair"  
Show: 8:30 p.m.  
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

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## Georgia negotiates ceasefire in South Ossetia; Lithuania tense

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Georgia's separatist government said Friday it was negotiating ceasefire terms with Ossetians fighting to break away from the Trans-Caucasian Republic.

But tension rose in the Baltic Republic of Lithuania after Soviet "black helicopters" special police fired on a bus carrying Lithuanian border guards Wednesday, wounding at least two.

As hundreds gathered in the capital Vilnius Thursday to protest against the action, Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis said "an atmosphere of terror" was being created.

The ceasefire negotiations in Georgia, on the Soviet Union's southern fringe, came ahead of a referendum in the republic on March 31 on the question of restoring its pre-1921 independence.

"On the initiative of the (Georgian) Internal Affairs Ministry, there are talks going on on a ceasefire and it is practically effective, with the exception of some isolated incidents," a republican government source said.

Speaking by telephone from the Georgian capital of Tbilisi, he said every effort was being made to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in South Ossetia in which at least 44 people have been

killed since late last year. The Soviet News Agency (TASS) said shooting continued Thursday night despite agreement on a temporary ceasefire.

Georgia, like the Baltic republics, refused to take part in last weekend's Soviet referendum which resulted in overall support for preserving "a renewed federation of equal sovereign republics."

"President Mikhail Gorbachev intends to use the majority — less than expected — as a mandate to hold the Soviet Union together on the basis of a new treaty offering republics greater political and economic autonomy."

The Georgian and Baltic leaders have rejected such a treaty. Ethnic tension in the Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia peaked early this year when 22 people were killed by the Soviet military.

The Kremlin has set up teams to negotiate with the Baltic leaders, but little progress has been made, and calls by Gorbachev for Georgians and pro-Moscow Ossetians to lay down their arms have been in vain.

Georgia's nationalist leadership regards Soviet involvement in the conflict as interference in its internal affairs.

Georgia, which declared its independence in 1918, has fiercely defended its language, culture

and religion against encroachment by the Soviet Communists who crushed the short-lived state in 1921.

The conflict with South Ossetia, a northern corner of Georgia, flared in December after the nationalist-dominated parliament abolished the region's autonomous status and tried to place it under the authority of Tbilisi.

In Lithuania, President Landsbergis told the republic's parliament Thursday that the shooting by Soviet police was "a situation in which an armed gang is going unpunished."

"This is an atmosphere of terror being created deliberately... our government is trying to solve this issue in direct talks with the military leadership, with the Soviet Union's government," Vilnius Radio quoted him as saying.

"It may be that these talks are taking place in order to win time, and meanwhile the events will be escalated."

In a separate development, local officials denied Friday suggestions that food riots had erupted in the Ural Mountains home base of Russian leader Boris Yeltsin, but said consumers were suffering unprecedented hardship.

Ruslan Khabibulov, Yeltsin's deputy in the Russian parliament, had told the chamber that unrest broke out in Sverdlovsk after

food supplies were curtailed. He suggested the cutbacks were linked to the city's heavy vote against in last weekend's Soviet referendum on the country's future.

"I've got no such information that there was any such trouble," Sergei Kozantsev of the Sverdlovsk City Council's press office said by telephone.

"It's very calm here. The situation with food here is awful but it doesn't seem to have worsened in the last few days because I don't see how that could be possible," he said.

Larisa Rudakova, an editor with the region's local Uralskript News Agency, said there were long queues in Sverdlovsk and the nearby city of Nizhny Tagil, with consumers buying large quantities of virtually anything on sale.

She said bakeries had doubled output recently but residents fearing shortages were buying large numbers of loaves to keep as food bread.

Only 34 per cent of voters in Sverdlovsk backed Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's call for a "renewed federation" of equal, sovereign republics.

Official results showed that 76 per cent of participants nationwide voted for the preservation of the Soviet Union.

## U.K. announces death of poll tax

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister John Major's government has announced the death of the poll tax — an unpopular local government tax — in an abrupt U-turn from the policies of his predecessor Margaret Thatcher.

"The public has not been persuaded that the charge is fair," Environment Secretary Michael Heseltine told the House of Commons.

The tax sparked a riot in London a year ago and campaigns of organised disobedience, cost the conservatives two formerly "safe" seats in special parliamentary elections and threatened to drag them to defeat in the next general election.

Opposition legislators in the House of Commons howled with derision as the government acknowledged finally that the flagship policy of Mrs. Thatcher's third term as prime minister had failed.

"We have just heard the most complete capitulation, the most startling U-turn, and the most shameless abandonment of consistency and principle in modern political history," declared Labour Party spokesman Bryan Gould.

In place of the poll tax, Heseltine said the government plans to introduce by 1993 a hybrid tax based on property values and the number of adult residents in each household.

Amid the cheers for the death of the tax were some jeers for its replacement.

"The worst of both worlds looks likely... an unpopular and possibly unfair property tax coupled with the continued nightmare of a head tax," said Alistair MacRae, secretary of the 500,000-member National Union of Public Employees, most of whom work for local authorities.

Mrs. Thatcher, now a rank-and-file legislator, was not in the chamber to hear Heseltine ditch the tax — which he had all but promised to do when he challenged Mrs. Thatcher for the party leadership in November.

Heseltine's challenge forced her out of office, but Major won in the second round and handed Heseltine responsibility for deciding what to do with the tax.

Heavily against every adult, the poll tax replaced property taxes as a source of local government funding.

Officially called the community charge, it was widely seen as unfair because it took no account of ability to pay. Millionaires and millworkers living in the same district paid the same tax.

## At least 300 Tamil rebels killed in Sri Lanka — army

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan troops have killed at least 300 Tamil guerrillas who have attacked two army camps in the north for the past three nights, military sources said Friday.

They said 18 soldiers have died and 48 were wounded defending the Silavaturai and Kokupadayan camps in Mannar on the north-west coast.

"We have sent reinforcements to both camps where there has been heavy fighting during the past three nights," an army officer said.

The officer said 10 seriously wounded soldiers had been evacuated since the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) launched their first attack on the two camps Tuesday night with

mortars, small arms and grenades.

The LTTE, fighting for a separate state in the north and east for the minority Tamil community, continued their attacks Wednesday and Thursday nights.

A curfew is in force in Mannar, which the Tigers regard as the southern border of the state they are trying to create, and parts of the surrounding Puttalam and Anuradhapura districts.

The government imposed a curfew Thursday in Kilinochchi, northeast of Mannar, to halt guerrilla movements after some 300 Tigers were seen moving south with their weapons from northern Jaffna, the guerrilla stronghold.

## African children face bleak future, report says

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rapid population growth and the explosion of AIDS cast a bleak shadow over the health of black African children, a government report said Thursday.

As many as 10 million sub-Saharan children under age 10 are expected to see one or both of their parents die during this decade, and infant and child death rates may rise by 50 per cent in some countries, the report said.

Malnutrition is the most important contributor to early African children deaths. Some 30 per cent of children between 12 months and 23 months old are malnourished, said the report by Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan and Ronald Roskens, administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Sullivan and Roskens, at the request of President George Bush, led a U.S. delegation on a trip to seven African countries in

January. They visited Ivory Coast, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

Their report recommends continued emphasis on U.S. aid to spur broad-based economic growth in African nations so that health programme can be sustained.

"Health assistance is a key adjunct to broader assistance programme. Healthy people produce healthy, stable and productive nations," the report said.

"Programmes to improve the health of African people should, therefore, be undertaken simultaneously with broader assistance initiatives."

This year, the United States is targeting \$800 million for the development fund for Africa, which represents the bulk of U.S. Development aid to Africa. The Bush administration requested about the same amount for the new fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

## Two U.S. Navy planes collide; 27 feared dead

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Two navy submarine-bunting planes collided Thursday, and all 27 people aboard were feared dead in cold, choppy waters 60 miles (97 kilometres) off southern California, authorities said.

The navy listed the crews as missing but there was little hope any of the crew members from the downed P-3 Orions survived.

The planes were engaged in a nighttime anti-submarine warfare training exercise when they collided, authorities said.

"I think we have to be realistic here," said senior chief Petty Officer Bob Howard, a navy public affairs officer at North Island Naval Air Station. "It is very cold

out there. We're talking about what apparently is a mid-air collision... two aircraft. I would say it would be very grim."

Search and rescue teams spotted some debris from the planes but found no sign of life.

A navy helicopter crew flying in the area and sailors from the destroyer USS Merrill all reported a ball of fire and loud explosion about 2:30 a.m. (1030 GMT), Howard said during a briefing at North Island Naval Air Station.

The collision occurred as one P-3 Orion was arriving to relieve the other, which had just completed its part of the exercise, Howard said.

## Princess Anne's son pulls out of trip amid paternity furore

AUCKLAND (R) — The teenage son of Britain's Princess Anne pulled out of a school trip to New Zealand as reporters descended on Auckland for a paternity scandal surrounding his father Mark Phillips.

A cricket team from the exclusive Port Regis Private School arrived in Auckland for a tour of New Zealand Friday but 18-year-old Peter Phillips was missing.

Peter, Queen Elizabeth's grandson, pulled out just four hours before the party flew out of London to avoid the furore, a source involved in the cricket tour told Reuters.

In an interview with London's daily Express, Auckland horsewoman Heather Tonkin has described a romantic night with Mark Phillips, saying he is the father of her five-year-old daughter Felicity.

She has lodged a paternity suit against Phillips, a top horseman, at a family court in the Auckland suburb of Otahuhu. Tonkin's lawyer Kevin Ryan declined comment Friday. New Zealand law bans comment on family court proceedings.

The scandal involving Phillips, who separated from the queen's only daughter in 1989, has dominated the news in Britain and New Zealand.

Television crews, reporters and photographers have camped outside 37-year-old Tonkin's Mock Tudor House in the exclusive country neighbourhood of Whitford, just south of Auckland.

The Daily Express has posted security guards outside the house on Polo Lane. The home, in a district of rolling hills where many homes have stables, has featured in a popular New Zealand soap opera about wealthy young professionals.

The whereabouts of Tonkin, who teaches at a local school, are unknown. But at one point a young blond girl emerged from the house, only to be called back inside by Daily Express reporter Norman Luck who addressed her

as "Bunny." Felicity's nickname.

Luck refused to say whether the Express had said Tonkin for the interview. "I'm an investigator, not a negotiator. I don't do that type of thing," he told Reuters.

Earlier Luck reacted angrily when a photographer slipped under the garden fence to try to catch a picture of Felicity, whose smiling face was splashed over the front pages of New Zealand newspapers Friday.

"I don't want to get vicious," he told waiting reporters. "We've tried not to have a media furore. We've tried to keep it low key." Luck said he had hired nine security men since arriving in New Zealand.

The Tonkin case is the second recent furore over a little girl in New Zealand. Just a year ago reporters besieged seven-year-old biliary Foretich, an American at the centre of a bitterly-fought custody battle.

Hilary's plight touched New Zealanders and passers-by stopped to abuse reporters and cameramen as they camped outside her Christchurch school.

So far reaction from Tonkin's neighbours has not been so violent, although visitors to her home Friday draped horse blankets over fences to keep out prying lenses.

Felicity has won friends wherever she has gone. "She is a really lovely kid," said Cole Salisbury-Smith, principal of a school which she attended briefly last year. "She came up the school path every day with a bright and cheery look on her face. She was a great conversationalist with lots of ability."

"She is an angelic sort of kid with a cherub face."

A Buckingham Palace spokesman, who is accordance with British practice declined to be named, said of the report: "If anything is to be said, it can be said by Capt. Phillips himself, not us."

## Poland abolishes visas for Americans

WASHINGTON (R) — Polish President Lech Walesa threw open Poland's doors to Americans, saying they would no longer need visas to visit his country as of April 15.

Polish officials said the move was a special gesture to American businessmen, whom Walesa wants to invest in his country. Poland is struggling to establish a market economy after decades of communism.

"Poland will be fully open to every American citizen," Walesa, a former shipyard electrician and leader of the solidarity resistance movement, told reporters after meeting U.S. congressional leaders on the second day of his visit to Washington.

"As of April 15, no visa will be necessary for Americans coming to Poland," he said.

In the past, Polish visas were

normally issued to Americans within about a week, once an application was made at the embassy in Washington, said an embassy spokesman said.

But the spokesman added businessmen from smaller U.S. cities occasionally faced delays in getting visas issued through tourist organisations.

Walesa is on a one-week trip to try to drum up U.S. financial aid investment for his country, which was at the vanguard of Eastern Europe's anti-Communist revolution and is now trying to impose economic changes that have been painful.

He told a congressional committee that the economies of Eastern Europe were stalled after the old, Communist system of management collapsed.

"The economic system has come to a standstill. It is now

falling apart," he said. "It has to be put into motion again."

He also warned that if the people of Eastern Europe do not soon see tangible results from reform they would flee westward.

"We have already had the first example, in Albania," Walesa said, referring to the recent flood of refugees from that country.

President George Bush welcomed Walesa Wednesday with the announcement that the United States was forgiving 70 per cent of Poland's \$3.8-billion debt to Washington as a reward for its switch to democracy and market reform.

"It is thanks to these (American) taxpayers that Poland is becoming free and independent, and is building a system under which it will finally be possible to relieve American taxpayers," Walesa told reporters.

## Defector may shed light on Cuban military

MIAMI (R) — The Cuban pilot who flew his unarmed MiG to Florida undetected and asked for U.S. asylum may shed light on the mood and morale of Fidel Castro's armed forces, experts said.

The MiG will probably be returned to Cuba. The Key West Naval Air Base identified it as a MiG-23B but other reports said it is a MiG-23.

But even if U.S. military intelligence experts have little to learn from the plane itself, the 38-year-old pilot who landed Wednesday is likely to provide important information about the Cuban military's morale, and perhaps about its military plans, capabilities, and tactics, experts say.

In a rare admission of a military defection, the Cuban Armed Forces Ministry in a statement Wednesday night identified the pilot as Air Force Major Orestes Froilan Lorenzo Perez and said he "committed an act of treason" by deserting during a training exercise.

At the pilot's request U.S. officials have not confirmed his identity. Cuban exile radio stations in Miami described Lorenzo Perez as an ace Cuban pilot and a graduate of an elite military school.

Many U.S. academic experts on Cuba, particularly those who believe Castro is on shaky political ground after 30 years in power, cite a generation gap in the military between Castro's peers and younger people like the pilot.

"He can tell about morale in the military, post-Ochoa," said Jacqueline Tillman, executive vice-president of the Cuban American National Foundation.

The Medal of Valor during ceremonies marking the 94th anniversary of the Philippine army.

He was among the defenders of Camp Aguinaldo, the armed forces headquarters, when I came under attack by munitions troops on Dec. 3, 1989, two days after rebel soldiers launched the most serious bid to topple Mrs. Aquino.

Salvador, then a private, used a recoilless rifle to blast two armoured personnel carriers that smashed through the camp's gates, killing several rebel crewmen.

Troops discovered the body of Salvador's brother, Rogelio, among the dead.

The citation said Salvador's action "decisively disorganised the hostile forces and halted their momentum during the most critical days" of the coup attempt.

Salvador told reporters before the ceremony that he had "mixed feelings" about receiving the medal. He also said he felt obligated to support his brother's widow and family.

## Oscar presenters sometimes wheel and deal to appear on show

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sylvester Stallone wanted to present Best Picture. Madonna wasn't about to hand out the visual effects trophy. Warren Beatty needed a while to decide if he would participate at all.

Scores of intriguing deals and compromises lurk behind the scenes at the Academy Awards, but few match the politicking and power plays linked to the secretive selection of award presenters.

Some celebrities insist on presenting only the top honours. Several against try to wrangle package deals, demanding that an unknown be accepted for every superstar.

Five months, and hundreds of occasionally agonising telephone calls, can be required to assemble an Oscar roster, according to interviews with Oscar show producers.

"You get all kinds of different responses when you make an offer," said Robert Wise, who produced the 1971 Oscars and co-produced the 1985 show. "I had a very well-known male star who I called and he said, 'Mr. Wise, what award do you have in mind for me to present?'"

"I couldn't tell him. And he said, 'I wouldn't want to give one

of those technical awards, you know.'" Wise said he promptly hung up on the late, great film star. "I called Jack Lemmon and he said, 'Sure. What do you want me to do?'"

In 1987, producer Samuel Goldwyn Jr. thought his Oscar ceremony would be enlivened by a certain rock star. "I had a problem with Madonna," Goldwyn said. "I wanted her to do special effects and I wanted to use the song Material Girl. And I got a call back from a manager who said, 'she is not a singer but she's an actress and will only give a Best Acting Award.'"

"So I figured I wasn't going to argue with her and that was the end of that."

Said Stanley Donen, the producer of the 1986 Oscar ceremony: "It's not unlike casting a film. Except you have no power because you have no paycheck." Oscar presenters are not paid — although in a backstage waiting room they do receive a nice fruit basket.

Producer Howard Koch selected Stallone to announce the Best Actress Oscar in 1983. Stallone would have preferred to deliver Best Picture — but that honour went to Carol Burnett.

"Everybody wants to give the

major awards from Best Picture back," Koch said. "It's a continuing negotiation from November until you're on the air. It's a thankless job."

Gil Cates, the producer of this and last year's Academy Awards, said a handful of performers are frustratingly non-committal. "Some actors respond very quickly in one or two days," Cates said. "With some, it takes three months to get a no."

Among this year's presenters are Jodie Foster, Anjelica Huston, Glenn Close, Michael Douglas, Jessica Tandy and Denzel Washington.

Hollywood publicists scurry to their telephones as soon as the Oscar producer is named, hopefully their clients can land a spot — preferably prominent — in a broadcast seen by 1 billion viewers worldwide.

Many press agents try to pick an award. Others are happy with whatever they can get.

Though it's prestigious to present one of the top three trophies — Best Picture, Actor and Actress — it's not always the best course.

"People who really are smart realise that they can come on and steal the show giving a small award," Goldwyn said. "I re-

member Billy Crystal was absolutely brilliant my second year (1988) and he gave editing or something."

"More people remember somebody who did a bit early in the show than who gave Best Picture. By the time the show gets to Best Picture, you're not interested in who's presenting. You want to know who wins."

Accustomed to working in uncrowded sound stages where flubs aren't an issue thanks to multiple takes, many Hollywood botshots panic on stage.

"Performing live terrifies them," Donen said. "Whereas everybody in the New York theatre world wants to do the Tonys because it's just like a play."

As is recent custom, Oscar-nominated songs are performed during the ceremony by those who originally sang the song.

"I asked Meryl Streep to sing her song (from Postcards From The Edge), Cates said. "She said, 'I just can't. I'm eight months pregnant. I just can't do it.' So I said, 'well, OK. Will you present the person who will sing your song if I can find somebody?' and she said, 'yeah, if I like the person you get, sure.'"

"And I got Reba McEntire,

who she loves, and Meryl is going to be on the show."

A successful awards show is one in which the stars are matched not only to the awards they give but to their co-presenters, producers say. Few people remember what trophy Mickey Rooney and 10-year-old Macaulay Culkin handed out at this year's Golden Globe ceremony. But the two clicked, and had the audience laughing.

"I invite people to be on the show," Cates said. "I do not tell them what they're going to do. It's fine for them to come back and say, 'I'll do the show, but I love cinematography.' I deal with that."

This year, Cates asked Gregory Peck to present Sophia Loren with a special Oscar because the actress presented him with his Oscar and they made a film together.

"There are people who just fit right. Sometimes the fit is esoteric and nobody gets it but us in which case it's disappointing. Sometimes the fit is really good," Cates said.

"It just is right. I don't know why it's right. Maybe it's because you know that he's literate and he's intelligent and that he is an artist."



## No deal get on Trump divorce

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump stood outside a Manhattan courthouse waving a \$10 million settlement check, but the judge in his divorce case said the millionaire developer hadn't cut a deal with his ex-wife Ivana yet.

"It is not settled. It will soon be settled," said Judge Phyllis Gangel-Jacob after Trump and his lawyers left court without an agreement. On Wednesday, Trump had loudly trumpeted his settlement with Ivana: \$10 million their Connecticut mansion and a Manhattan apartment.

Mrs. Trump's attorney, Michael Kennedy, said that Trump was all wrong. "Contrary to the statements of Mr. Trump and his lawyers, the case has not settled and will not settle until Mr. Trump honours his obligations to Mrs. Trump and her children," said Kennedy. The couple have until April 11 to reach a monetary settlement in their divorce or the case will go to trial. Mrs. Trump and her attorney didn't even show up at the courthouse Thursday. But the absence of a settlement — even his own attorney, Stanford Lotwin, acknowledged there were details to be worked out — did nothing to stop Trump's posturing. "I'm here with what I'm supposed to be here with — a certified check for \$10 million," Trump said. "That's what it's all about. People have to live up to their agreements."

## Scientists develop airliner warning aid

SYDNEY (AP) — Australian scientists said they have developed a device that will warn pilots away from volcanic cloud formations that could stall their aircraft in mid-flight. The infra-red radiometer, developed by the federal government's Division of Atmospheric Research, measures heat and light levels at five distinct wavelengths, said Dr. Fred Prata, an atmospheric physicist. Prata said the instruments on some airliners have difficulty distinguishing between regular clouds and those created from volcanic ash. The radiometer allows pilots to distinguish between the types of clouds. The device is expected to give jet aircraft travelling at 800 kilometres an hour about five to 10 minutes warning of a volcanic cloud. In one of the worst incidents involving volcanic clouds, all four engines failed on a British Airways Boeing 747 jet carrying 239 passengers. The plane, flying from Singapore to Perth, Australia, in June 1982, dived from 9,000 metres to 4,000 metres before the engines restarted. It made an emergency landing at Jakarta, Indonesia.

## Big price for little bird

LONDON (AP) — A carved ivory netsuke in the shape of a bird, just 1 3/4 inches (4.5 centimetres) long, sold for £115,000 (\$207,000), auctioneers at Sotheby's said. A Japanese dealer, identified as S. Uchida, bought the tiny ornament originally used as a toggle fastening in traditional Japanese dress. The carving represents a resting Mandarin crane. It is famous after being reproduced throughout the world in books on Netsuke as an outstanding example of the art of its 19th-century creator, Kaigyokusai Masatsugu of Osaka. It is known as the Imai crane after a former owner. Kyoto ceramics dealer in Imai Kenzo.

## Youth held for attacking statue of Stalin

MOSCOW (R) — A 17-year-old youth was seized by guards after attacking a bust of former dictator Josef Stalin at the Kremlin Wall and hacking off part of its nose. Soviet News Agency (TASS) said. TASS said the youth, from Cheboksara south of Moscow, struck the bust marking Stalin's grave twice with an iron bar on Sunday. He now faces trial on charges of desecrating a monument. The graves of many former Soviet leaders are situated along the red-brick Kremlin Wall at Red Square. The area is heavily guarded by police and soldiers. Stalin's body had been displayed alongside that of state founder Vladimir Lenin in a red marble mausoleum near the wall. But it was removed in the 1950s after Stalin was denounced by successor Nikita Khrushchev for the bloody purges of his rule. Few public monuments to him now remain in a country that was once dominated by towering statues of "the leader."